

THE TIMES  
Tomorrow

City... Jan Morris, face-to-face for the first time with the myth and mystery of China explores Peking.

Limits... Robin Cook highlights the human dimension of the "administrative shambles" after the introduction of unified housing benefit.

Spinning... What next for the football giant-killers? The draw for the FA Cup fourth round.

A yarn... Suzy Menkes discovers new materials for creative knitters and weavers.

## '100 killed' in Tunisia bread riots

More than 100 Tunisians were killed and 500 injured in the bread riots last week, human rights sources said. The Government has not given a casualty list. Almost 1,000 people were reported to have been arrested during the week.

Tunisia's priorities, page 5

## 11 Red Cross workers seized

Ugandan rebels have abducted 11 Red Cross workers, including four whites, from an area about 40 miles west of Kampala. The volunteers were seen being led away by four armed men, believed to be members of The National Resistance Army.

## Tax threat to pension schemes

Tax relief on contributions to company pension funds could be threatened because of a searching Treasury review of tax exemptions which cost the Exchequer about £40 billion a year.

## Jobs gloom

The economy is expected to grow by about 2 per cent this year, but unemployment will rise to more than 4 million by the end of the decade, according to a leading economic forecaster.

## 'Identity' cards

Opposition MPs are to demand assurances from the Government that plastic national insurance number cards will not be used for surveillance or as identity cards.

## Paper planned

Mr Robert Maxwell says he intends to launch a London evening newspaper this year with a target circulation of 250,000 and an emphasis on financial news.

## School shake-up

The shake-up in Soviet schools is being seen as part of President Andropov's determination to see through reforms despite his illness.

## Master player

Andrew Martin gained the title of International Master yesterday in round 10 of the Hastings International Chess tournament.

## A knock out

The Rugby League match between Oldham and Leigh was abandoned by the referee, when players started brawling after he sent off two of their colleagues.

## Winning double

Slovil and Smid from Czechoslovakia beat Jarryd and Simonsson, 1-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to win the international doubles tournament at the Albert Hall yesterday.

## Leader page 9

Letters: On British Airways, from Mrs A J Lucking; Northern Ireland, from Professor D Bowen, and Sir J Biggs-Davison; MP: peace studies, from Lady Cox.

Leading articles: Angola; Roman Catholics and the British Council of Churches; Mexico.

Features, page 6-8: Sir Keith Joseph replies to critics of his educational reform plans; The positive side of Swedish neutrality; David Howell MP on Rates Bill; Oxford Diary.

Spectrum: Jan Morris in China. Monday Page: Public school girls.

Obituary, page 10: Professor Alfred Kastler; Mr Shaw Wildman; Miss Rose Bruford.

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## Benn reinstated on shortlist for Chesterfield

From Anthony Davies, Political Correspondent, Chesterfield

Mr Wedgwood Benn last night staged a comeback at Chesterfield, just two days after his name had been excluded from the shortlist of potential Labour candidates for the by-election in March.

The Chesterfield party executive last Friday picked a recommended shortlist of just five names, spurning Mr Benn in spite of the fact that he led the field with a dozen local nominations.

Last night the party's all-powerful general committee met in a first-floor hall of the Derbyshire National Union of Mineworkers' headquarters in the town, to consider that recommendation.

Four separate amendments were proposed, including the one that Mr Benn should be added to the shortlist, which goes before another general committee meeting next Sunday. At 4.25pm a cheer could be heard as the result was announced: 65 in favour, 51 against.

Mr Benn will be the central figure in a six-strong shortlist which includes one other

former MP, Mr Phillip Whitehead, and the leaders of two local conflicts.

The general committee then moved a resolution that each of the challengers should be asked not to stand for any electioneer's campaign with Mr Benn's political future in the balance. Labour's left and right wings will be putting enormous pressure on the 120 party members who will make the final choice next Sunday.

Mr Benn, aged 58, still intends to address a private Labour Party meeting in Wincoburn, near Chesterfield, on Wednesday. He is playing for a political power base. Since he lost his Bristol constituency last June he has failed to make any of the running in the party.

Even his own former allies seem to have left him behind, and Labour's Kinnoch-Hattersley leadership has been able to ignore the voice from the wilderness.

The resistance to a Benn comeback has by no means been confined to the right wing. Mr Neil Kinnoch, like Mr Michael Foot before him, has

made no secret of his dislike for Mr Benn and his allegedly destructive influence on the party. But while he has successfully managed to outmanoeuvre his political opponents inside the party's national executive, his colleagues recognize that a Benn by-election campaign would inevitably focus and renew public attention on the persistent divides within the Labour Party.

Mr Benn never fails to take any opportunity to speak his mind, and Mr Kinnoch would undoubtedly face policy challenges and political embarrassment during a lengthy by-election campaign in which Mr Benn represented the party.

The campaign itself would be dangerous enough, but the final result would put Mr Kinnoch in double jeopardy. If Mr Benn won the by-election, Mr Kinnoch would again face inevitable challenges to his authority.

If Mr Benn were to lose, because the voters undoubtedly see him as a personification of Labour's problems, Mr Kinnoch's leadership honeymoon would be smashed in a most disastrous fashion.

Chesterfield Labour sources last night viewed the general committee voting figures as a clear indication that Mr Benn had edged closer for next Sunday's battle. Even some of his main rivals privately conceded that he would be difficult to beat.

However, there were hopes, albeit faintly based, that Mr Benn had been inserted on to the shortlist on the back of a sympathy reaction.

Next Sunday's vote, a succession of elimination ballots which conclude with the victor winning more than 50 per cent of votes cast, will undoubtedly see a complex mix of voting patterns.

But it is still thought that Mr Benn's main challenger will be Mr Whitehead, who has local roots.

How Benn came back, page 2



Holiday bound: The Prince and Princess of Wales arriving at Zurich on the way to a skiing holiday in Liechtenstein, where they are expected to visit the castle of Crown Prince Hans Adam.

## Storm over US deficit as Reagan approves budget

From Jeffrey Morris, Washington

Only about 50 Republicans who hold safe seats in conservative districts would be willing to trim domestic programmes further.

The future generated by the documents - which are labelled "very sensitive" - have been distributed widely on Capitol Hill - prompted the President to schedule a meeting this week of his top advisers. They must take the politically difficult decision of whether to tax the people or cut domestic services further to reduce the huge deficit.

Mr Reagan has apparently no intention of cutting his arms build-up substantially and he has continued to oppose tax increases in the belief that the sustained economic recovery will reduce the deficits.

However, Mr Martin Feldstein, Mr Reagan's chief economic adviser, sent him an urgent personal memorandum last week appealing to him to include a \$500m tax increase in his new budget.

To wait until after the November election to attack the deficit would be "very risky to the economy", Mr Feldstein's memorandum said.

Financial markets around the world were waiting for a sign of a US deficit. Mr Feldstein is reported to have said:

Supporting Mr Feldstein's position are Mr David Stockman, director of the Office of Management Budgets, influential Republicans in Congress and some Treasury officials.

Those said to be opposed to tax increases are Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary; Mr Richard Darman, a presidential adviser; and some conservative members of Congress.

## Kissinger wants \$8bn for Central America

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Kissinger Commission on Central America on Wednesday recommended a \$8 billion aid package - including \$1.5 billion for military aid - to help the Central American governments fight the guerrilla forces.

The report will contain everything that President Reagan has said in support of his campaign to secure long-term American involvement in the political and economic life of the troubled southern neighbour.

Nothing, however, is offered to the guerrillas, who are seen as the main obstacle to the return of democracy in the region, and one of the few countries in the world without an army, is said to require increased border security to prevent incursions into its territory.

The report says that El Salvador, afflicted by a civil war for the past four years, should receive significantly increased military aid - possibly as much as another \$400m in 1984 and 1985. The left-wing guerrilla campaign is said to be a "direct threat to US security interest".

Honduras, a solid ally of America, and the recipient for substantial economic assistance. Continued on back page, col 8

## US Marine killed in Beirut firing

Beirut (AP and Reuters) - An American Marine was killed yesterday as a helicopter that had unloaded US troops on Beirut's seafloor came under fire from rocket-propelled grenades and small arms as it took off.

Beirut radio reported that two Marines were injured, but Captain Wayne Jones said he knew of no other casualties. The helicopter managed to take off safely.

US officials said at one point after the early-morning attack that two helicopters were involved, but Major Dennis Brooks, the chief Marine spokesman, said only one helicopter was taking off as the gunfire opened fire.

The confusion may have arisen because it was the helicopter's second trip to the landing point. He added that he was uncertain whether a report that gunners on board the helicopter opened fire was correct. "I don't know that to be a fact now," he said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Woolley, an Army helicopter pilot, has taken command of the 110-strong British contingent to the multinational force, it was announced yesterday.

Colonel Woolley, aged 41, who arrived here on January 3, commanded the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire from 1981 to 1983.

In Sidon, inhabitants spoke of a morning of terror when Israeli troops fired hundreds of machine-gun rounds to clear the main shopping street of parked cars.

Israel at first denied there had been any shooting on Saturday, but later said an Israeli armoured personnel carrier had fired on a single car suspected of being booby-trapped.

Hassan dialogue, photograph, page 4

## Pretoria threatens to step up Angola war and send in tanks

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South African military chiefs have threatened to step up the war in southern Angola by using tanks, and Mr P. W. Botha, the Foreign Minister, this weekend said the deteriorating situation had brought Pretoria to the brink of confrontation with the United Nations.

At the same time, General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, announced that a limited withdrawal had begun. But he gave warning that Pretoria would not hesitate to mount another invasion.

In the wake of the three-day battle at Cuito Cuanavale last week, in which South Africa claimed to have routed a superior combined Cuban, Angolan and Swapo force, and the unanimous Security Council resolution demanding Pretoria's immediate and unconditional withdrawal, Mr Botha said: "We must make a stand now or the conflict will become much greater later on."

Lieutenant-General Ian Gleeson, the Chief of Staff Operations of the South African Defence Force (SADF), said in Pretoria: "It is not us looking for a fight with tanks. But if the situation continues

where Swapo has this kind of umbrella protection from the Cubans and Russians with their sophisticated weaponry, we will be compelled to do so."

He said South African troops, who launched the offensive into Angola a month ago, achieved one of their main objectives in the vital area by repelling the bulk of an estimated 1,400 Swapo guerrillas poised to infiltrate northern Namibia.

Pretoria is now prepared to scale down the operation, but General Gleeson did not say if this meant complete withdrawal. In the fighting at Cuito Cuanavale, 125 miles inside

Angola, South Africa claims to have killed 324 Cuban, Angolan and Swapo fighters and to have destroyed 11 Soviet-made T54 tanks for the loss of seven of its own men, bringing the total since the offensive began to 21 South Africans killed, more than 400 of the "enemy", and more than 20 tanks put out of action.

An undisclosed number of prisoners, including Angolan's have been captured. General Gleeson said Russian advisers had played a direct role in controlling the fighting. They issued "orders and guidelines" and told troops to hold a position "at all costs and down to the last man", he said.

There were about 5,000 Russian instructors and advisers in Angola but, until last week, they had not been involved in the fighting, the general said. Their intervention follows the disclosure that the Soviet Union has been in contact with Pretoria, complaining that the military presence in Angola was "unacceptable".

In a television interview, Mr Botha said South Africa's offer Continued on back page, col 8

## Shagari's top guard arrested

From Kenneth Mackenzie, Lagos

A senior officer who sent a warning to President Shagari immediately before the December 31 coup has been arrested in Lagos.

Brigadier Bello Kalief, who was commander-in-chief of the President's guards, became aware of unusual troop movements while in Lagos and communicated by radio with the President in Abuja, the incomplete new capital.

Brigadier Kalief also ordered the men guarding the President to be on the alert. This was the cause of the only

blood-letting: the killing of Brigadier Ibrahim Bako.

Brigadier Bako, an old friend of the Shagari family, led a force from the state of Kaduna to arrest the President. One report said he went unarmed to the President to assure him that he would not be harmed. But he was shot by a captain in the President's guard in circumstances that are not entirely clear.

The President fled to a village nearby, but then surrendered himself. He has since been

treated with the greatest respect. Reports that he had been handcuffed have been authoritatively denied.

The fate of the politicians arrested after the coup is being widely discussed in Nigerian newspapers (Reuters reports).

The Nigerian Labour Congress called for the death penalty for corrupt former leaders, the government-owned New Nigerian newspaper reported yesterday.

Economic plight, page 4

## Nato needs more warships, says admiral

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A top British allied commander has complained that he lacks the ships to cover all his NATO tasks.

Admiral Sir William Staveley, NATO commander-in-chief for the eastern Atlantic and the Channel, says he has only half the anti-submarine escort vessels he needs and is having to concentrate his forces on "absolutely minimum essentials" with the protection of British and American submarine bases on the Clyde heading his list.

"I hope the politicians will be able to stomach the de-

cisions we shall have to take," he says in an interview in the new journal, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, which appears this week.

Admiral Staveley, who is also commander-in-chief of the Royal Navy's own fleet, says it is essential to have enough forces ready for the first indication of hostilities. "We are very short indeed in percentage terms of a lot of things," he adds.

The Soviet Union's frigates and destroyers cost up to four times as much as Nato warships but its older vessels

are now being replaced by "very up-market" warships.

The growth in numbers of Soviet nuclear-powered hunter-killer and ballistic missile submarines had been the most significant development in recent years.

Mr Taz Dalyell, Labour MP for Lintlithgow, yesterday challenged Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, to acknowledge that Britain's commitment of men and ships to the Falklands was an important reason for the shortage (the Press Association reports).



Admiral Staveley: A warning for the politicians





## Police criticized on applications for costs against defendants

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Magistrates' Association has criticized moves by a growing number of police forces to recoup the administrative expense of bringing cases to magistrates' courts by asking defendants to pay costs against them.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, association secretary, said: "It is highly undesirable and causes injustice." The association's legal committee will consider on Thursday what further action to take.

Police service practice is divided on the issue. Because not all forces seek such costs, defendants are penalized differently in different areas. "It is open to some doubt as to whether administrative costs are properly chargeable because police are already funded publicly to cover them," Mr Norman said.

The report by police in favour of seeking costs is that the guilty defendant, being responsible for the case, should pay, not the law-abiding public.

Kent is the latest force to seek costs to cover administrative expenses. Cases are reckoned to cost £10 an hour of police time and other relevant expenses for a guilty plea and £20 an hour for a not guilty plea.

Kent police say they will also seek costs to reimburse witnesses' expenses. They deny any pressure on defendants to plead guilty by warning them of court costs.

Mr David Hall, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said it supported the principle of seeking such costs. But it was a matter for individual chief constables to decide whether to ask for them and for individual courts whether to grant them.

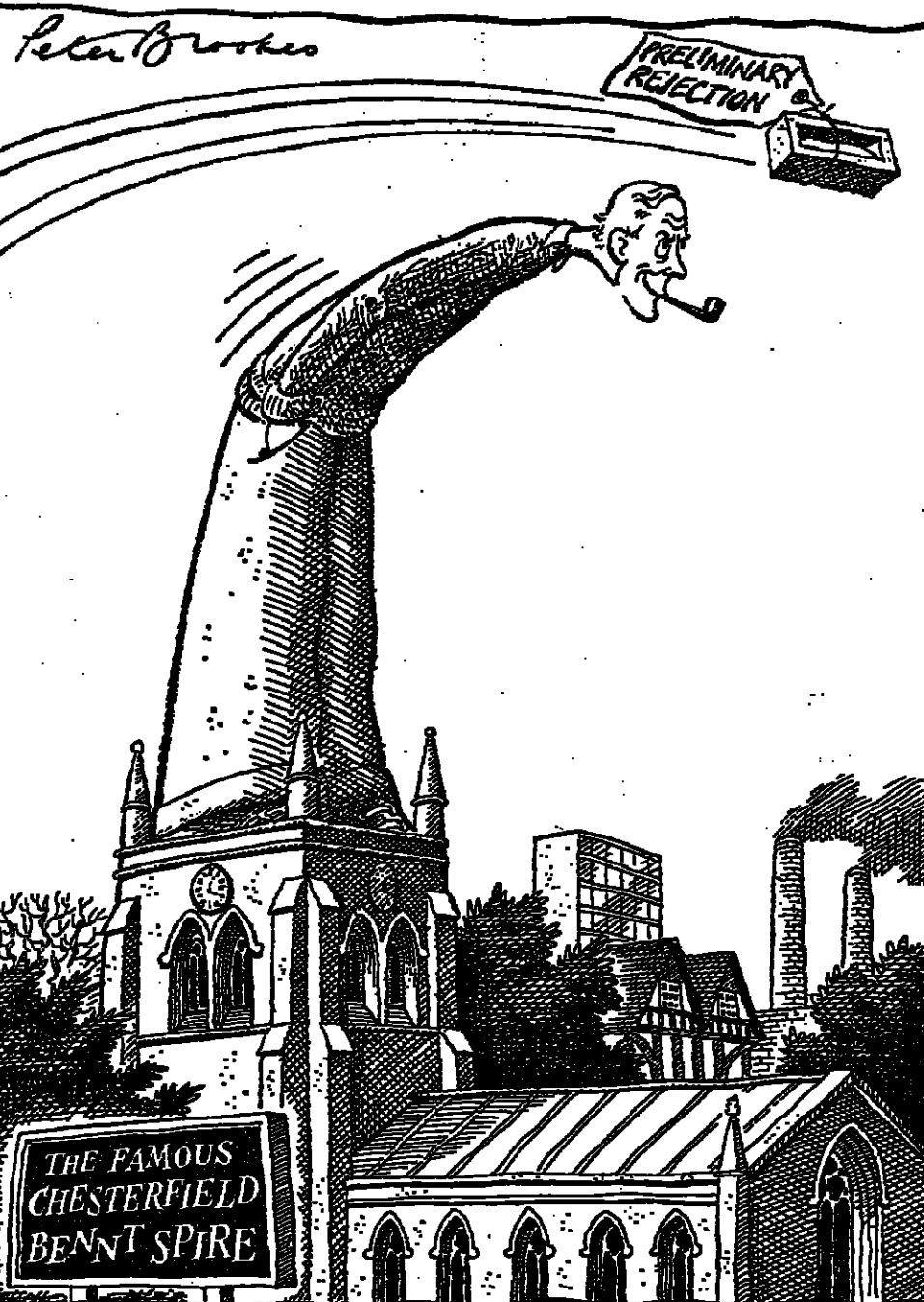
Mr Norman estimates that 15 of the 43 forces in England and Wales seek such costs. A growing number had decided to ask for them after a recommendation by a working party of the Association of Chief Police Officers about two years ago as a way of raising revenue.

Sussex police have no plans to seek such costs. Mr Roger Birch, the Chief Constable, believes that whatever system is used it should be uniform throughout the country.

Cambridgeshire police say they did not introduce a scheme because they were unable to get a consensus when the proposal was discussed with justices' clerks.

Mr Norman says that even in counties such as Hertfordshire, where police sought such costs, different benches had different ideas about granting them. That was confirmed by Essex police, who ask for such costs but do not always obtain them.

Reflecting the rising concern among magistrates, the association's legal committee is expected to endorse its policy that costs should be charged against public funds either by the court or by direct



## How Benn at first failed to make Chesterfield shortlist

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Chesterfield

Chesterfield Labour Party's anti-Benn faction showed its muscle at last Friday's meeting of the 23-strong constituency party executive.

Presented with a long list of 13 contenders for the succession to Mr Eric Varley, its first move was to restrict the shortlist to five names.

Then began a lengthy process of elimination which, at each stage, cuts out the last man in the ballot.

Mr Wedgwood Benn was a target for elimination because of the strongly-felt antipathy in the Chesterfield party to a man who was thought to have provoked the left-right struggles which so damaged Labour between 1981 and last June.

Despite public protestation, it was felt that Mr Neil Kinnoch would privately prefer

Mr Benn to be left out in the political wilderness. Prejudice against Mr Benn has also been underscored by polls which suggest that it would be much more difficult for Labour to hold the constituency if he was the candidate.

In the event, Mr Wedgwood Benn was eliminated on the seventh vote of the evening and the final and eighth ballot, having eliminated a Derbyshire councillor, produced the recommended shortlist.

The result gave Mr John Lenthall, local party treasurer, 22 votes; Mr Phillip Whitehead, former MP for Derby North, and Mr William Flanagan, leader of Chesterfield Borough Council, 21 votes each; Mr Clifford Fox, leader of Derbyshire North-east District Council, 18 votes; and Mr David Wilcox, a Derbyshire

## Industrial disaster if 'high tech' starved of aid, Owen says

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, argued yesterday that a higher level of government support for high-technology industries was needed if Britain was to avert industrial disaster.

Speaking to Liberal parliamentary candidates in conference at Oxford, he said that the economy must be built around "a solid core of highly technological and competitive industries".

There should be a "dynamic partnership" with industry, in which the Government provided low-interest finance and funds for development and research, if the criteria were right, not attempting to override market forces but to anticipate with industry what world markets would demand.

Dr Owen said that the state of the economy would be the main pivotal issue of the next general election. Although Britain's economic position was poised to improve, it would not mask the country's continued decline. The storm clouds would emerge from 1986 and beyond.

"In the 1988 election, our relative economic decline, which produced the SDP, will again be slap on the agenda. It is a challenge, I believe, for the radicals and progressives in the

Alliance. It has to be seen as the party which can put Britain back in the forefront of technological advance."

Dr Owen said that Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, the former Labour leader, had been right with his comments on the white-hot heat of the technological revolution. But Lord Wilson failed because the Labour Party was incapable of leading that revolution.

He added: "You may get part of it from the Conservatives, but only part. This is where we have such potential. We can see a sensible role for government in promoting technological advance and we can see the need for market forces."

"There are some things Mrs Thatcher is saying in this country that we must take account of, but it is being done in a stainless steel way without any heart. Because of that she builds up resistance so that you don't get the acceleration that is needed."

Conservative policy was to distribute the new wealth among those already employed. He added: "We have to remind the country and those in jobs that there are legitimate social demands from those less fortunate."

## Israel rebuff for Belfast study group

From Harry Colombeck, Hastings

Five members of the Democratic Unionist Party returned to Belfast last night after a six-day visit to Israel where they had hoped to learn lessons on frontier security which would be applicable on Northern Ireland's border with the Irish Republic. The group was headed by the party's deputy leader, Mr Peter Robinson.

It is understood, however, that the group did not receive facilities to study Israel's border security measures in any detail.

That owes more to Israel's traditional reluctance to discuss sensitive defence matters with foreigners than to efforts by Fr Sean MacManus, director of the pro-Provisional IRA Irish National Caucus in Washington to persuade the Israelis not to receive the visitors.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, yesterday criticized IRA statements that they would not attack security forces in the Republic.

He said it was hypocrisy for the IRA to say that "They have never been inhibited by murder."

Mr Rory O'Brady, former leader of Provisional Sinn Féin, was in a serious condition in hospital in Dublin last night after a car crash on Saturday in Co. Kildare. Mr John Sills, aged 63, of Dublin, died in the accident.

## Speelman set to take lead

From Harry Colombeck, Hastings

There was much exciting play in the two rounds of the Ace grandmaster tournament played over the weekend at the White Rock Pavilion, Hastings.

The most decisive and thrilling games were in round 10. The Hungarian grandmaster Gyula Sax fell victim to a well-known variation of the English opening and lost in 16 moves.

Coom got into desperate time trouble against Martin and lost on time with five moves still to go. Albury unassumingly sacrificed a piece against Speelman and although that game was adjourned after five hours it looked easily won for Speelman, who if he wins this game, will be leading with 7 points ahead of the Swedish grandmaster Karlsson who has 6½.

The remaining scores are: Martin 6, Sax 5½, Speelman 5½, Albury 5, Coom 5, and Sax 4½. Round 11 starts on Monday at 10.30.

## £200m sales record set by Harrods

Harrods announced yesterday that it had become the first individual British store to achieve annual sales of more than £200m in a full trading year, which for Harrods ends on January 28. Last year the store achieved sales of £190m. Harrods broke through the £200m barrier on Saturday afternoon, the second day of its January sale. By the close of business sales had reached £201.3m since January 29 last year.

Harrods achieved the record sales despite the IRA car bomb explosion outside the store three weeks ago. Security has been strict since then.

Another record was set by Harrods when total trading for the first two days of the January sale reached £7.24m compared with £7.1m on the first two days of the sale last year.

Mr Alec Craddock, chairman and managing director of Harrods, said that he was delighted to have passed the milestone.

## Ombudsman denies Law Society bias

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Ombudsman for solicitors' clients, Major-General John Allen, replies today in an unprecedented public statement to an accusation that he doctored a report and failed to censure the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, in spite of his findings against it.

The Legal Action Group says Major-General Allen cited evidence clearly condemning the Law Society's credibility. He had made specific criticisms of the society's role in handling a complaint.

The solicitor who was the subject of the complaint, Mr Giovanni Davies, of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, was a member of the Law Society council, its governing body, for 13 years.

Major-General Allen's report, however, had not mentioned the possible influence of the Law Society on the Mr Davies was known to those involved in the investigation.

Mr Davies was ordered to be struck off the roll of solicitors by the High Court last October. Mr Leslie Parsons, a

## Cryer seeks Euro nomination

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Next door to Chesterfield, where Mr Wedgwood Benn is fighting for the Labour nomination in the coming by-election, his former close associate at Westminster, Mr Robert Cryer, is seeking selection tonight to fight the Sheffield seat in the elections next June to the European Assembly.

Sheffield is one of the safest European seats for Labour, which is choosing a candidate in place of Mr Richard Cabor, another Benn supporter, who will not seek reelection because he was returned to Westminster as MP for Sheffield Central at the last general election.



Mr Cryer: Sheffield decision tonight.

Mr Cryer then lost his seat as MP for Keighley. At tonight's selection meeting his strongest

opponent is Mr Roger Barton, a Sheffield city councillor. Both are left-wing opponents of the European Economic Community.

The only EEC supporter on the shortlist, Mr Alan Wade, president of the Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party, is regarded as an outsider.

Mrs Barbara Castle, leader of the British Labour group in the European Parliament, also faces a stiff fight tonight for selection at Greater Manchester West. She has the same number of nominations as the only other contestant, Mr Frank White, former MP for Bury and Radcliffe, who was born and raised in the constituency.

## EEC agriculture: Farmers turn against CAP

The EEC agriculture ministers meet in Brussels today to try to reach agreement on the future of the common agricultural policy (CAP). But their hearts can hardly be in it.

Not only are their governments in hopeless disarray over financing the budget, but the CAP is not even popular with the Community's farmers. Indeed in a recent poll in France, of all places, six out of ten farmers reckoned that they had done badly out of the EEC.

That may come as no surprise to those who believe that farmers always complain anyway. But there is undoubtedly widespread disillusionment with the system, even hostility in some sectors.

The CAP was originally intended to be one of several common policies covering steel, energy, transport, and so on. A theoretical commitment to those policies remains, but the mind boggles at the consequences if the same system of protective levies, price supports and subsidies on exports had been applied to, say, steel.

But the CAP had a social as well as an economic purpose: it was intended to raise the living standards of what 20 years ago was a very much larger and more politically significant rural population and to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency in food.

Up to a point it succeeded, but the new prosperity it brought was not evenly spread. Large and efficient farmers, particularly cereal growers, did so well that they could afford to become still larger and more efficient, while their smaller colleagues were tempted or forced to sell their holdings.

The humiliating collapse of the EEC summit meeting in Athens recently, and the failure to agree on financial reforms, has inevitably called into question the future of the Community's biggest single item of expenditure, the common agricultural policy. In this three-part series, correspondents of *The Times* in Paris, Bonn, Brussels, Rome, Copenhagen and Dublin look at how the policy has affected agriculture in all the EEC countries except in the Mediterranean zone, what farmers think of it, and what are their hopes and fears for the future. Edited by John Young.

**Bonanza ends**

François Capelle, aged 35, and his younger brother farm 1,200 acres of rich arable land in Picardy.

They expect a turnover of about £400,000 and a pre-tax profit of between £50,000 and £80,000. They have done well out of the EEC, and know it, but they also know that the bonanza cannot go on for ever.

Mr Capelle wants to see the EEC concentrate its energies on developing export opportunities, and he also advocates greater specialization on a regional level to improve efficiency.

The effort to stem the historical flight from the countryside to the cities was in 1962 20 per cent of Frenchmen worked on the land; today the figure is down to 8 per cent.

When the CAP was introduced in 1962, France had the lowest wholesale prices for agricultural products in the Community, and the largest production. So it was certainly a benefit most from the introduction of a higher guaranteed price and a bigger market.

But the benefits which accrued then are now often forgotten. Although France receives the

## Rate-action rebels see Thatcher

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Conservatives in local government say they will moderate their opposition to the Government's rate-capping Bill, which is causing Mr Thatcher much when she meets them in private today.

A dozen leading Conservative councillors have been summoned to Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister in an attempt to ease the passage of the Rates Bill, which received a second reading in Parliament next week.

Although the guest list, drawn up on the initiative of Lord Bellwin, the Minister for Local Government at the Department of the Environment, contains several councillors who fully support the Government's plans, Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to persuade the four key men at the meeting, the representatives of the Conservative-controlled associations of district and county councils, which between them represent more than 300 councils in England and Wales.

One of these, Mr Lewis Moss, leader of the Association of County Councils, said yesterday that they had been invited by the Prime Minister "primarily so she could put her views to us".

A leading councillor suggested yesterday that the meeting had been called not because the Prime Minister felt the need for personal lobbying, but because Lord Bellwin, who is the Government's business manager in the Lords, is exceedingly anxious about the arithmetic of voting and wants pressure applied to the counties to cease their successful campaigning among Conservative peers.

## Success in marriage, by the Church

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

There are many ways of "making love" in marriage apart from sexual intercourse, a Church of England pamphlet on marriage says.

It lists among the possibilities: The farewell kiss when husband or wife leaves for work in the morning; holding hands while shopping; a caress while reading the newspaper together; or "simply a smile while sitting in the bus".

The pamphlet is intended for couples when they approach their local church to arrange their wedding. It is written by Canon Hugh Melinsky, director of northern ordination training in the Church of England, on behalf of the General Synod board for social responsibility.

Called *Forward to Marriage*, it replaces the Church's previous official premarriage booklet, *The Threshold of Marriage*, which has been widely used for 50 years.

The new pamphlet is frank about sex, discussing for example how often intercourse should occur (answer: "How long is a piece of string?"). But sexual intercourse is "only one part of a constant social intercourse, which can provide for loving in all sorts of different ways".

*Forward to Marriage* (Church Information Office, Church House, Westminster, SW1 4OP).

● Romance is on the way out in 1984, women who answered a survey in *Options* magazine say.

They complained that they rarely heard the three words they cherished most: "I love you."

## Honours system

By Peter Hennessy

The 1984 New Year Honours list shows the Thatcher Government has maintained its practice of awarding peerages and knighthoods to businessmen whose companies have contributed to Conservative funds, according to an analysis produced by the Labour Research Department (LRD).

An LRD study last month of Mrs Thatcher's first eight honours lists estimated that companies that "dominated" Conservative fundraising had received honours at twice the rate of companies which dominated the economy.

Mr John Walker, of LRD, an organization funded by 50 trade unions, said last week: "The eight honours lists of 1979-82 accounted for £2.75m in donations. The January, 1984, list accounts for £500,000. The scale of generosity identified in December has been more than maintained by the current list."

Twenty of 33, or about 60 per cent of industrialists receiving knighthoods in 1979-83 were associated with donating companies. Five of the eight made knighthoods last week, or some 63 per cent, were in a similar position.

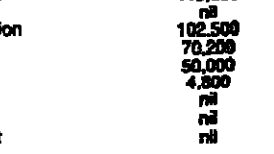
Several of the eight hold directorships in the finance or construction sectors of the economy. LRD identifies those areas as the most generous contributors to Conservative funds - from its analysis of 2,000 sets of company accounts, the department estimated by that between 1979 and 1982, those sectors accounted for 44 per cent of gifts.

Mr Walker said: "The correlation of honours and

funds for the Conservative cause remains a remarkable one, and continues to be a cause for concern. A publicly accountable form of scrutiny over the honours selection procedure is the only way that suspicion of a quid pro quo system at work can be allayed."

The *Times* disclosed last month that concern about backdoor political patronage had led to a tightening of the procedures operated by the independent Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, which consists of Lord Shackleton, Lord Carr of Hadley and Lord Franks.

The committee screens, as a matter of routine, the names of those specifically nominated



Mr John Walker: "Cause for concern".

NAME	DIRECTORSHIPS	COMPANIES' DONATIONS 1979-82 (£)
Pearage		
Alastair McAlpine	Joint Hon Treasurer, Conservative Party, Robert McAlpine	133,000
Knighthoods		
Edwin Ronald Nixon	IBM	115,500
Timothy Bevan	Royal Insurance, Barclays Bank, Commercial Union	102,500
Richard Bailey	Royal Doulton	70,200
Alan Vase	GECC	50,000
Cervid Davies	Amec	4,800
Peter Walters	BP	nil
John Cator	Distillers	nil
Peter Thompson	National Freight	nil
		476,000

1. Sir Robert McAlpine is a subsidiary of Newarthill, which made the donation.  
2. Royal Doulton is a subsidiary of S. Pearson that made the donation.  
3. Amec is an amalgamation of the Fairclough Group and William Price Construction, the donations were made by William Price before the 1982 amalgamation.  
Donations include those made direct to the Conservative Party (£289,200), those made to British United Industrialists, which according to Central Office figures 60 per cent of the money over to the party (£179,500), the Centre for Policy Studies, formerly by Mrs Thatcher and Sir John Major (£179,500), the Tory Bow Group (£8,500) and the Tory Bow Group (£800). They exclude, however, the £85,822 given by companies associated with five of the men in the list, to the Economic League.

Source: Labour Research Department.

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# Challenge to tax relief on company pension contributions

By Frances Williams

Economics Correspondent

The panoply of tax reliefs and exemptions, which cost the Exchequer about £40 billion a year in forgone revenues, have come under the Treasury's microscope as part of its review of public spending over the next decade.

Particularly close attention is likely to be paid to tax relief on contributions to company pensions funds, amounting to more than £1 billion in 1983-84 on official government figures, and more than £5 billion according to unpublished Inland Revenue estimates.

But mortgage interest tax relief, worth more than £2 billion, to which the Prime Minister is staunchly committed, is not a candidate for the axe.

Reliefs and exemptions, known in the jargon as "tax expenditures", now cost the Government more than the entire social security budget of £34 billion this year, and their expense is growing.

The Treasury is concerned to ensure that, in looking at the long-term trends of public spending and their implications for government finances, the other side of the balance sheet is taken into consideration as well. Ministers are also questioning whether the large sums expended on tax reliefs would not be better applied to, say, reducing the basic rate of tax for everyone.

Abolition of reliefs on pension contributions and life assurance premiums could, for instance, finance an income tax cut of 6p in the pound, leaving people with more of their own money to spend or save as they wished. Each 1p-off income tax

## COST OF MAIN TAX RELIEFS 1982-83

	£m
Income tax	
Married man's allowance	9,380
Single person's allowance	5,132
Wife's earned income allowance	2,510
Exemption of first £2,250 of investment income from surcharge	880
Relief for pension schemes	1,005,100*
Relief for self-employed pension payments	290
Relief for life assurance premiums	550
Mortgage interest tax relief	2,150
Capital gains tax	
Exemption of own home	3,000
Stamp duty	
Exemption of government stocks and local authority loans	2,100
Company taxes	
Reliefs for investment, stocks and double taxation	say, 13,000

\*Unpublished Inland Revenue calculations for 1983-84. Source: Public expenditure White Paper, 1983 vol 2.

costs about £1 billion.

The political difficulties of removing tax reliefs would be immense. The Chancellor may get some support from Cabinet colleagues in charge of spending departments who may see the opportunity to avoid painful cuts in their own programmes. But the abolition or scaling down of mortgage interest tax relief, which the Treasury favours, would run into implacable opposition from Mrs Thatcher, who believes in using the tax system to promote the things - such as home-ownership - which she supports.

At the time of the last Budget it was Mrs Thatcher who insisted, against Treasury advice, that the ceiling for mortgage relief be raised from £25,000 to £30,000.

Pension contributions may prove a more vulnerable target.

The government already has the whole system of pension provision under review.

Legislation is planned in the next parliamentary session to improve provision for people who change jobs and an inquiry into the long-term costs of pensions has been launched by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The Treasury fears that the costs of both state and occupational pensions, on benefit levels now promised, could prove insupportable by the early years of the next century. Abolition of tax relief on pension contributions would encourage people to provide for their old age in ways which were not a charge on the state, in particular through direct investment in stocks and shares, which ministers are anxious to promote.

There is also growing opposition within the Conservative Party - most vigorously expressed by the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies - to the present system of occupational pensions. Critics claim that it distorts savings choices, inhibits job mobility, gives too much power to the big financial institutions (and not enough incentive for them to improve performance), and deters the spread of wealth because pensions, unlike houses or other financial assets, cannot be passed on to the next generation.

The Treasury's review of long-term public spending plans is expected to be completed before the summer. Some results are likely to be published as part of the public debate the Chancellor believes is necessary. But the form of the document has not yet been decided.



Christmas fare: Three girls joining in the singing at the annual Mad Hatter's Christmas Party for nearly 700 handicapped children organized by the London Taxidriver's Association. The girls are with Trusthouse Forte at Grosvenor House yesterday. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

# Labour MPs seek assurances on new 'identity' cards

By Nicholas Timmins

Social Services Correspondent

Labour MPs are to demand assurances from the Government that new "national identity" cards, to be introduced to every adult, will not be used for surveillance or for the basis of a new identity card system.

Today the existing national insurance card will be replaced by a credit card piece of plastic on which each individual's name and national insurance number, and a magnetic strip on the back carrying the same information.

Two million of the cards will be issued each year to new entrants to the system - to new immigrants, for example, or anyone who loses their card. There are no plans to replace the cards of existing national insurance holders.

The old card, individuals being asked to sign the card to prevent others using it, are being encouraged to sign the new card.

Michael Meacher, Opposition spokesman on social security, said the new card would be a "major Orwellian possibility".

Asked if he could give a guarantee that people would not be made to carry the cards, Mr Newton said: "It is a much broader question that somebody might want to think about at some time in the future, but there is no thinking that has been given to that and no intention of that kind at all."

## NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBERCARD

AQ 12 34 56 A

## Plan to cut hooliganism

Joseph, Secretary of Education, said yesterday that hooliganism had been reduced by his new initiative to improve educational standards.

He thought many of the "bored silly" at Radio's *World This Weekend* programme, Sir Keith said, had been reduced by his new initiative to improve educational standards.

Week Sir Keith outlined and ambitious programme to improve educational standards.

Sir Keith's appeal, page 8

## Increased sales of spirits

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

The first sign for three years of an improvement in sales of spirits is reported by the Wine and Spirit Association. In the third quarter of last year, on annual comparison, sales rose by 10.1 per cent, with British-produced spirits up 9.5 per cent.

Imported spirits were up 12.3 per cent, with cognac showing a 22.6 per cent rise and other brandies an increase of 28.4 per cent.

Because the basis of customs and excise statistics have been changed comparisons are difficult, but British-produced gin sales have risen by 21 per cent in the third quarter compared with the same period the year before and whisky sales may have increased by about 6 per cent.

The third quarter improvements are being regarded with caution by the association, whose chairman, Mr Guy Gordon Clark, points out that the cumulative total for the year is only 1.4 per cent up, with the moving annual total rising by only 0.3 per cent.

He said: "This is the first positive change recorded for some three years. Welcome as it is, the increase is very small and could be upset once again by the end of the fiscal year."

## First patients for spinal unit

A purpose-built spinal injuries treatment centre at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, accepts its first patients today.

The 48-bed Duke of Cornwall unit, costing nearly £10m to build and equip, will treat more than hundred cases a year from the Wessex and South-west health regions.

## Sinclair attacks schools market

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Sir Clive Sinclair, who has sold more than two million microcomputers, is to launch his most advanced and expensive machine this Thursday, as a challenge to the model sold by the BBC in the same price range.

The new machine, called the QL, standing for Quantum Leap, will introduce Sinclair to a more mature microcomputer market which has been dominated, particularly in the schools, by the two models produced for the BBC by the Cambridge computer manufacturer Acorn.

The Sinclair machines, which are expected to be made by Thorn-EMI, one of the main manufacturers of Sinclair microcomputers, will be available in the spring. The memory of the new machines will be capable of storing about 130,000 bits of information (128K), almost three times the capacity of the largest Sinclair computer, the Spectrum, of which more than a million have been sold.

The QL, will have a typewriter keyboard, twin disc drives and the facility to be networked, one of the advanced features of the machine.

## Youth custody study

A team of experts has begun a study into the use of custody for young offenders. The team will examine the numbers locked up and possible alternatives. The group's chairman is Professor Norman Tutt, of Lancaster University, who believes there has been an increase in the number of juveniles being put in custody.

Professor Tutt said: "We hope we will be able to raise this important topic of debate and question the current apparently inevitable increase in the numbers of young people locked up."

The team is attempting to compare the policies towards juveniles adopted by four legal systems - those of England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Recent reports have highlighted the rapid expansion of custody for juveniles in England and Wales.

## Demand for fresh food increases

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

An unexpected swing away from frozen foods towards fresh produce is shown in an independent market survey reported in *The Grocer*.

The survey, by Euromonitor, also shows the rising popularity of canned foods after years of decline. Sales rose 8 per cent last year, mainly, it is thought, because of improved packaging and the increasing variety of "exotic" products.

The British food market rose by 2 per cent in real terms to £27,600m. Frozen food sales, however, fell by 3 per cent, while those of fresh fish increased by 40 per cent, breakfast cereals by 15 per cent, breads by 11 per cent, fresh fruit by 9 per cent, and "speciality" vegetables, such as courgettes, peppers and aubergines, by 70 per cent.

There was also a growing demand for delicatessen foods such as cooked meats, shellfish and Continental cheeses.

According to *Farmers Weekly*, an analysis of government statistics by National Farmers' Union economists, shows wages in the last 10 years have substantially outstripped food prices. Last year, the average wage-earner worked 25 minutes to buy 1lb of lamb, compared with 38 minutes in 1973.

One pint of milk took 3.6 minutes to earn compared with 3.7 minutes a dozen eggs 12.6 minutes (27.9), a loaf of bread 6.4 minutes (7.6), 1lb of beef 49.7 minutes (52.2), 1lb of pork 18 minutes (31.8), 1lb of bacon 25.4 minutes (42) and 1lb of butter 16.9 minutes (17).

The two main exceptions were potatoes and sugar, which were marginally more expensive.

It will be quicker, less tiring, and a safer than struggling through central London.

The Freight Transport Association is urging industrial firms to instruct drivers to change to the M25 now that it provides a through link to the Kent coast.

"This was the last remaining gap for traffic from Scotland, the North, and Midlands to the South-east and the Channel ports. It is therefore very important not only to industry, whose goods will move faster but also to Londoners who will be relieved of heavy through traffic," the association said.

"We hope all lorry drivers will use it to the maximum possible extent."

However, road users still have two complaints about the latest stretch of Britain's most important new road: there will be no service areas for food, fuel, and rest anywhere between the A1 and the Dartford Tunnel and tolls will still be charged for traffic through the tunnel even though, in their view, it now forms an integral part of the M25.

"It is a nonsense to go on charging tolls for this short stretch of an otherwise toll-free motorway," the association said. "Stopping traffic to collect tolls is bound to cause delays."

## Poll shows support for wider police powers

By a Staff Reporter

A majority of the public supports in principle such controversial police powers as stop-and-search and the use of water cannon, tear gas and plastic bullets to control civil disorders.

The use of telephone taps or confidential files, however, is considered unacceptable.

With hearings in committee on the Government's Police and Criminal Evidence Bill due to resume in Parliament next week, the results of a MORI poll commissioned by *The Sunday Times* and published yesterday also showed that 32 per cent of the 1,082 people interviewed last month did not trust the police to tell the truth.

Clergymen (85 per cent) were the most trusted group, followed by government ministers (65 per cent) and the police (55 per cent).

Those who were willing to trust the police with the use of stop-and-search powers were 62 per cent, 62 per cent approved of the various crowd control devices, and 61 per cent had objections to mass fingerprinting in areas where serious crimes had been committed.

They drew the line at detaining suspects for more than 24 hours without a charge (65 per cent against), questioning suspects before they consulted a lawyer (66 per cent), and the use of telephone taps or files 84 and 85 per cent respectively.

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## M25 brings Scotland closer to Europe

By Michael Bailey

Transport Editor

Scotland and the north of England will move a sharp step closer to Europe with the opening of a key section of London's M25 orbital motorway later this month.

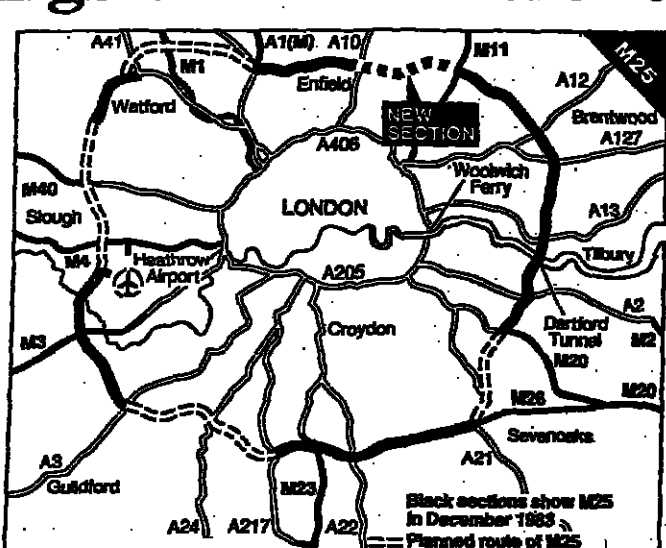
The eight-mile stretch through Epping Forest is due to be opened on January 25 by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport. It will provide a through route from Glasgow to the Channel ports on motorway and dual carriageway trunk roads virtually all the way.

It is the most important section of the M25 yet, providing a complete by-pass round north-east London and the North to the cross-channel ferry services to Europe.

Traffic from the north will join the M25 at the South Mimms junction on the A1(M) to the Dartford Tunnel under the Thames, then directly by motorway south of the river to the A2 to Dover or the M20 to Folkestone.

The stretch has taken two years to build and cost about £20m, a price inflated by the cost of two tunnels through environmentally sensitive areas around Epping Forest.

There was fierce opposition from environmental groups and delays to planning inquiries before the tunnels were con-



ceded by the Government in the late 1970s.

Traffic is expected to build up rapidly to about 50,000 vehicles a day, many of which have travelled up to now on adjoining roads or through the centre of London. The link is therefore expected to give widespread relief, in the first place to Waltham Abbey and Waltham Cross, two towns in the north-east of London, and other areas of central and north-east London such as Hackney, where a night-time lorry ban is being introduced

from the day the new link opens to encourage lorry drivers to use it. Motorists should be able to save as much as an hour, as well as wear and tear on the nerves, by driving round the motorway instead of fighting through London in peak periods.

The RAC yesterday described it as a "major step" which would make life a great deal easier for drivers, particularly those from Scotland and the North. "There will be less aggravation," the RAC



# Arafat ready to resume talks with Hussein on future of West Bank

Amman (AFP and Reuters) - Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, says he proposes to resume talks with King Hussein in Amman as soon as the PLO fighters recently evacuated from Tripoli are resettled. It was reported yesterday.

In statements carried by the Jordanian press, Mr Arafat was quoted as saying he was prepared to resume the talks which he and the Jordanian monarch had begun last year on a joint peace initiative proposed by President Reagan.

The talks, which were aimed at exploring the possibility of King Hussein's representing the PLO in talks with Israel on the future of the Israeli-occupied territories, broke off last spring, reportedly through pressure from Syrian-backed PLO hard-liners.

Mr Arafat said he would travel to Amman to meet the King as soon as arrangements were completed for the resettlement of the 4,000 guerrillas evacuated from northern Lebanon last month.

He described King Hussein's decision to recall the suspended Jordanian Parliament for a special session today as an "internal affair", adding that he hoped it held no "political implications" for the wider region.

However, some political observers here believe that the convocation of Parliament might be intended to put pressure on Mr Arafat to resume talks with Jordan.

A royal decree last Thursday said Parliament would meet today to appoint members who had died. Eight West Bank seats are expected to be filled, and the move regarded as a possible attempt to bring West Bank Palestinians into the political process.

In another development, a representative of the hard-line Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine returned to Damascus from Tunis yesterday, without taking part in a meeting of the PLO's executive committee in Lebanon since the group, while remaining neutral in the conflict between the PLO's largest guerrilla organization, Fatah, has criticized Mr Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak of Egypt last month.

## Israel scotches pull-out report

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israel has taken a decision on withdrawal, said an Israeli radio commentator. The statement reflected the conflict between Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister. The analyst said a senior defence establishment official, in a brief interview, had said a "simultaneous Syrian withdrawal" would be considered by various forums, including the cabinet.

But he added: "The competent authority under Israeli law in these matters is the cabinet and it has never discussed a redeployment of its troops without a Syrian withdrawal."

Mr Meridor said the Prime Minister had refused to attend today's official opening ceremony of the Histadrut, the Jewish workers' union, in Jerusalem. However, the Cabinet Defence Minister, the analyst said, did not rule out that a senior defence establishment official, in a brief interview, had said a "simultaneous Syrian withdrawal" would be considered by various forums, including the cabinet.

Our position... is based on the accord and agreement we reached with Lebanon on May 17, 1983," the spokesman said. "The May 17 agreement calls for the withdrawal of all forces, including Israeli and, of course, the Syrian and PLO forces. There is no truth in the claim



Into action: US Marines going into combat in Beirut yesterday after a helicopter unloading troops came under fire 500 yards from the British Embassy, which houses the US Embassy. One Marine died in the exchange.

## Habré stays away from Addis talks on Chad

Addis Ababa (AFP) - The Organization of African Unity talks to resolve the Chadian civil war met their first setback before today's official opening ceremony when President Hissene Habré of Chad yesterday refused to attend.

Mr Habré assigned his Interior Minister, Mr. Taher Guinassou, to lead the Ndjamena delegation to the conference after President Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, the current OAU president, accorded an official welcome to Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the former president and leader of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU), on his arrival in Addis Ababa earlier in the day.

The Chadian Foreign Minister, Mr. Idriss Mikine, who was expected to lead the Ndjamena delegation if Mr Habré chose not to attend, died suddenly of malaria on Saturday, the Ndjamena Government announced.

Mr Goukouni arrived from Libya on board a special plane with an entourage of 300, and Colonel Mengistu accompanied him to his hotel.

In Paris, sources close to the Chadian Embassy said the welcome, which the Chadian Government feared, took place "despite undertakings given. It means opposition is put on an equal footing with the legal and legitimate Government of Chad."

He was arrested and charged with incitement to riot on Thursday after driving through Jerusalem with a placard saying he supported the Jewish movement called "Terror Against Terror", a group which has claimed responsibility for grenade attacks on Muslim and Christian religious sites.

He has been arrested and jailed on many occasions since arriving here from the United States about 15 years ago. He was released yesterday on \$160 bail and ordered to forfeit his passport.

His Jewish Kach group militantly seeks the expulsion of all Arabs from territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 war and a legal ban on sexual relations between Muslims and Jews.

## Rabbi bailed after giving himself up

Jerusalem (AFP, Reuters) - Rabbi Meir Kahane, right-wing extremist leader of the Jewish Kach group, yesterday gave himself up to Israeli police after escaping from custody on Thursday. He was immediately released on bail.

He was arrested and charged with incitement to riot on Thursday after driving through Jerusalem with a placard saying he supported the Jewish movement called "Terror Against Terror", a group which has claimed responsibility for grenade attacks on Muslim and Christian religious sites.

He has been arrested and jailed on many occasions since arriving here from the United States about 15 years ago. He was released yesterday on \$160 bail and ordered to forfeit his passport.

His Jewish Kach group militantly seeks the expulsion of all Arabs from territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 war and a legal ban on sexual relations between Muslims and Jews.

## Mid-East tour for Howe

Cairo (Reuters) - The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, arrived yesterday on the opening leg of a five-day tour of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria, his first visit to the region since he took office in June.

He told reporters at Cairo airport that Britain was anxious to see progress in the Middle East peace process, but said: "It would be presumptuous of me to come here on a first visit to offer a blueprint of peace for the Middle East."

"I shall be hoping to learn what steps might be taken towards this objective."

Sir Geoffrey will discuss Lebanon, prospects for Middle East peace and the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq.

Officials said Britain, which contributes to the peacekeeping force in Beirut, felt the time was ripe to see whether progress could be made towards withdrawal of the force.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Kamel Hassan Ali, who was at the airport to meet Sir Geoffrey, said Egypt was "longing to see some support for the peaceful efforts that are going on. Egypt has some ideas for the peace process."

● Saudi visitor: President Mubarak of Egypt had five hours of talks yesterday with Prince Talal Ibn Abdul-Aziz, the first senior member of the Saudi Arabian royal family to visit Egypt since Cairo signed a 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

They decided to elaborate on their talks but diplomats said the visit might improve Egyptian-Saudi relations and raise the possibility of Egypt's return to the Islamic Conference Organization, which is to hold its summit in Morocco next week.

## Nigeria's economic plight Buhari told to change tack

From Kenneth Mackenzie, Lagos

A week after seizing power the new military rulers of Nigeria were being pointedly reminded yesterday that they need ideas as well as guns if power is to be exercised effectively.

"Nigeria's real problems are of a basic structural nature, and are not merely the outcome of bad and corrupt administration," Ola Balogun, a senior commentator, wrote in the *Sunday Concord*.

He argued that the 23 years since independence had been spent "marching in the wrong direction". He wanted a turning away from dependence on overseas manufacturers towards the "beginning of national self-reliance".

Other commentators have drawn attention to the fact that General Mohammed Buhari's analysis of Nigeria's economic ills in his first broadcast as head of state bore an uncanny resemblance to President Shehu Shagari's last analysis of those ills before he was toppled.

The general proposed the same remedies, on the whole, but carried out with discipline instead of profligate corruption. This may help a little, but not much. He will use the same civil service, too.

A big test is likely to be whether the military men will grasp the nettle of devaluation. This makes sense economically but has always been regarded as political heresy.

Now would be the time for some bold strokes - such as abolishing almost all subsidies and controls (ineffective and

## Gowon moves on

General Yakubu Gowon, the former Nigerian military ruler, was to leave Togo for Paris last night and planned to travel on to London, informed sources in Lagos said. General Gowon returned to Nigeria in December, ending eight years in exile, after being pardoned by President Shagari. He has been in Lagos since two days before the coup, protected by Topless troops (Reuters reports from Abidjan).

phone men to the electricity authorities, and so on).

A clean slate would help, though international debts would obviously have to be honoured. Apart from that, the best way to avoid rules being broken is not to have any rules. Market forces can deal with corruption if given a chance.

Nigerians are also beginning to realize, as the euphoria wears off after the best-organized coup

## Failure by Thorn to break deadlock

An unexpected meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, failed to make progress on the Community dispute over Britain's budget payments, according to EEC sources yesterday (our Foreign Staff writes).

Britain threatened last week to retaliate unless the Community paid a promised rebate of some £460m by April.

Mr Thorn, who left early Saturday after Friday's talks with the Foreign Secretary, is attempting to avert the crisis that would result if retaliation took the form of Britain withholding EEC contributions.

## Gun happy

Delhi (AFP) - The 18-year-old grandson of Indian President Giani Zail Singh is reported to have gone on a shooting spree at the palace and its 300-acre gardens last week, killing more than 300 birds, including protected Siberian cranes. According to the newspaper *Indian Express*, Giani Singh shot the birds while the President was away on a tour.

## Easing grip

Dhaka (Reuters) - General Ershad, the Bangladesh ruler, restored limited political activity at the weekend to mark the beginning of formal talks with 41 opposition parties aimed at returning the country to democracy. But leaders of the two main opposition parties, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, who have been demanding early elections, were absent from the talks.

## Gandhi clash



Mrs Maneka Gandhi, daughter-in-law and political opponent of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, yesterday announced a new political challenge. She is to stand for Parliament in a constituency held by her brother-in-law, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, widely regarded as his mother's political heir. Maneka, aged 27, the widow of Mrs Gandhi's younger son Sanjay, promised to field 300 candidates in national elections due next January.

## Suicide bishop

New York (NYT) - The Most Rev William Prazsky, aged 68, Bishop of New York in the Slavonic Orthodox Church and pastor of the Eastern Orthodox monastery of St Andrew in the Bronx, hanged himself in his church last week on the day his church celebrated Christmas.

## Brunei signs

Singapore - Brunei has become the smallest and wealthiest member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). The Sultanate is Asean's first new member since its inception in 1967, and is likely to be the last for some time.

## Beach alert

Cherbourg (Reuters) - French police yesterday urged people using Normandy beaches to take extreme care after a crate containing four bottles of toxic silver nitrate was washed up near Cherbourg. The chemical came from an Iraqi cargo ship on its way from Liverpool to Kuwait, officials said.

## Envoy dies

Washington (Reuters) - Mr Evgeny Gavrillov, aged 32, a Soviet diplomat, was found dead of asphyxiation "from a neck ligature" at the Soviet Embassy on Saturday but foul play was not suspected. Police say a rope was found near the body.

## Rapist caned

Karachi (Reuters) - More than 10,000 people applauded as a labourer who had raped a four-year-old girl was caned 30 times in a Karachi football stadium. The rapist, after being taken to hospital for about 10 days, will begin a life prison sentence.

## Quads well

Melbourne (AFP) - The world's first test-tube quadruplets were all breathing normally yesterday, after the last one was taken off oxygen. The parents, identified as Helen and Graham Muir, have named the four boys Sam, Ben, Christopher and Brett.

## Correction

Pasta Buchholz, invited to sing in *Aida* at Covent Garden, is a bass, not a tenor as stated in a Moscow report on January 5. *Aida* will be performed in June with Luciano Pavarotti singing in the tenor role.

## ADVERTISEMENT

### Today's Taste of Utopia January 4th

- Today's taste of utopia comes with the fulfilling flavour of peace and prosperity created by over 7,000 experts of the Maharishi Technology of the Unified Field assembled at Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa, U.S.A.
- Lebanese Government announces formal agreement between all rival groups on comprehensive security plan to halt fighting in Beirut and nearby Chouf mountains.
- President Reagan expresses hope that U.S.A. and Syria can work together to bring stability to Lebanon and make the nation "united, independent and sovereign once more".
- "East-West: not so cold. The New Year is coming in with signals from both East and West suggesting that the chill... between the two power blocs may be moderating." - *Financial Times*, London, lead editorial.
- Relations between U.S.A. and Guatemala strengthening, says U.S. Envoy.
- Angola accepts principle of 30-day truce with South Africa.
- Governing and opposition parties in Canada unite to applaud appointment of new Governor-General, who pledges to keep the nation together.
- Iraq signs peace pact with Iraqi Kurds, granting broader autonomy.
- In effort to end civil war 700 anti-government forces in southern Chad agree to disband and rejoin Government forces.
- Stock market indices rise to record levels in Amsterdam, Singapore, and Sydney. Mexican stock market enjoys boom.
- Composite index of U.S. business activities shows dramatic rise in December.
- In move to improve economic management, comprehensive reorganisation takes place in Bulgarian Government and Communist Party leadership.
- South Korea eases imports as a result of President Reagan's recent visit.
- New Nigerian Government honours previous debt repayment commitment on schedule.
- International Monetary Fund approves

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## Washington phone-tap affair

## Reagan aide to hand over tapes

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Mr Charles Wick, America's propagandist and a personal friend of the Reagans for many years, will today hand over a batch of tape recordings he secretly made during telephone conversations with the rich, influential and the famous. Although vigorously defended over the weekend by President Reagan, he is struggling for survival.

Two congressional committees will listen to the tapes to determine whether they reveal any wrongdoings and to establish the extent of the surreptitious recordings. Despite the ghosts of the Nixon era raised by the affair, those who have heard the tapes say they are embarrassing rather than sensational.

Mr Wick's motives, according to his defenders, are simply that he has an obsession with detail and ceaselessly files notes into a pocket tape-recorder.

His telephone conversations, however appear to have been taped on to a large machine attached to his telephone at the US Information Agency, a



Mr Charles Wick: Man with a legendary temper.

many tentacled, multi-million dollar-body whose function is to spread America's view across the world. Mr Reagan appointed Mr Wick director a year ago.

Those secretly recorded include Mr Walter Annenberg, the publisher; Mr James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff; Senator Mark Hatfield (Republican Oregon); Kirk Douglas, the actor and Mr Kenneth Adelman, now the

director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Mr Wick is a flamboyant, wealthy businessman who has said derisively that his telephone pay from the agency would not even meet the \$4,000 a month (£2,850) rent on his Washington apartment. He appears to be highly unpopular at almost every level in the department and already his booming temper is legendary in Washington.

The leaking of some of the tapes he kept in this office may well have been the work of an enemy in the organization.

Mr Reagan, however, is determined to help Mr Wick ride the storm. "I do not think that Charles Wick is a dishonourable man in any way," he said.

It is not illegal under federal or Washington DC laws to record telephone conversations secretly. However, some recordings were made by Mr Wick when he was on the telephone from Florida to Mr Baker in Washington, and under Florida law the practice is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a heavy fine. The State Attorney in Florida is investigating.

## Contadora initiative threatened

Panama City (Reuters) - Disagreements between Nicaragua and its four Central American neighbours have hampered progress at regional peace talks organized by the Contadora Group.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Señor José Alberto Zambrano, said yesterday, after the start of talks marking the first anniversary of the Contadora effort, that there were misunderstandings.

But his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, said the American Government objected to a proposal from El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras which would make key changes in a peace plan offered by Contadora.

Contadora last year approved a 21-point peace proposal aimed at ending guerrilla wars in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The plan called for withdrawal of all foreign troops and advisers.

But the US-backed Central American nations have modified the proposal, advocating tight controls on foreign military advisers, rather than their complete withdrawal.



## Tunisia needs to balance books and placate the people after riots

From Geoffrey Morrison

Tunis  
Although calm is returning here after President Habib Bourguiba's cancellation of bread price rises which had caused a week of bloody riots across the country, the affair leaves many worried people in its wake.

By dismissing the Interior Minister, Mr Driss Guiga, the President has selected his political "fall guy" and by adding his portfolio to the duties of the Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Mzali, the 80-year-old leader has reaffirmed his confidence in his successor-designate, who many had expected to become chief scapegoat for the temporary collapse of law and order in this normally tranquil country.

But as he goes to his quiet office this morning, just outside the walls of the Medina, whose narrow streets once again teem with merchants and arguing shoppers trying to strike a bargain, Mr Mzali will know that his popularity with the public has dwindled, and that his Government faces a tough task in the next few weeks.

He has to balance the country's books without resort to a massive cut in Government spending on food subsidies, which the price rises would have achieved. The Government also knows it has been implicitly criticized by President Bourguiba, the nation's father figure, whose word is law. In his nationwide broadcast cancelling the increases, which



President Bourguiba (left) and chosen heir, Mr Mzali.

within minutes turned a tense capital into a city in carnival, the President said he had only authorized that price be increased "slightly". The Government had doubled them.

Mr Mzali, himself, appears to realize that his administration's action was hamstrung, telling foreign journalists that the Government might have "overestimated the Tunisians' capacity to accept austerity and sacrifices to strengthen the economy".

The President told the Government to come back in three months with a new budget. He does not rule out price rises which are not excessive and do not bear heavily on the poor. He mentioned increases in the price of wines and spirits.

He has set the Government a difficult task for, if bread prices are not significantly increased, economists predict Government outlay on subsidies will soar this year to more than £160m or over 10 per cent of present government spending.

It is not only Tunisia's economic managers who are worried by the "solution" to the crisis, but also many within the establishment who are weighing the country's political future. The past two years have seen two important political events.

The first was a general parliamentary election in November, 1981, which the Government announced with a great fanfare as a big step towards democracy but then proceeded to rig in a blatant manner.

The second was last week's serious unrest in which more than 50 people are believed to have died. For many Tunisians, the first event discredited the ballot box as a means for people to express their opinions, while the second validated rioting as a means of doing so.

"You don't have to have a PhD in political science to be able to draw certain conclusions about the dangers to Tunisia's future," one Western observer said.

The riots will have their consequences further afield, with hard-pressed African governments becoming even more nervous about heading the advice of the International Monetary Fund, economists and bankers that they must rein in expenditure and put their economic houses in order.

Many African leaders will prefer to preside over a disorderly economic house rather than see their political edifice crash to the ground.



Lone rider: Eric Bouac, the French motor-cyclist, mending a puncture in the Algerian desert, on the fifth leg of the Paris-Dakar.

## Mayor joins row over paroling of killer

From Ivor Davis

Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles has reacted angrily over the release of the convicted San Francisco assassin, Mr Dan White, to a secret address in Los Angeles. Mr Bradley complained he was never told that Mr White would be paroled to his city.

The 37-year-old former policeman had served just over five years for killing the Mayor of San Francisco, Mr George Moscone and Mr Harvey Milk, a supervisor or city councillor and a homosexual. He had been convicted of manslaughter and was released early because of good behaviour.

Mr White has been moved into what is described as a motel-hotel type of home where he is expected to be using an assumed name. He will be given a job with little public contact and remain in Los Angeles for a year during parole.

Earlier the Mayors of San Francisco and San Diego had told the prison authorities that they did not want Mr White in their cities but over the weekend Mr Bradley bitterly protested against the failure of prison officials and his own police chief, Mr Daryl Gates, to inform him that Mr White would take up residence in his city. The police chief explained that, although he knew of the plan, it had slipped his mind.

Gay activists in Los Angeles are also outraged over Mr Whites' release. Mr White is also being housed in the city, calling it an insult to the homosexual community. While in San Francisco, Mr White was a vocal opponent of gay rights and has never indicated any remorse for the killings.

In San Francisco about 1,500 demonstrators held a peaceful but noisy rally in Union Square to protest against Mr White's early release, then took to the streets, carrying banners inscribed: "He Got Away With Murder".

Mr White was released under extraordinary tight security. Last Thursday he was sneaked out of Soledad Prison lying face down on the seat of an unmarked prison car to avoid reporters.

## Hollywood unruffled by Murdoch

From Our Correspondent

Los Angeles  
The possibility that Mr Rupert Murdoch could become the owner of Warner Bros TV and film studios here causes no fear, loathing or trepidation in Hollywood, a town that has thrived under dream factories run by one-man rule.

Although Mr Murdoch's reputation as a newspaper tycoon is certainly not unblemished in these parts the film community has been watching the New York financial adventures with a spectator's interest.

Mr Murdoch has filed his first official notice that he is considering a proxy fight to "influence the management or acquire control of" Warner Communications. If he gained control the sprawling studios in Burbank, California, would come within his domain.

"We could do with some new blood in this town," noted an executive of a studio across town. Murdoch sounds as if he's the kind of guy cut out of the old tycoon dictator mould - another Louis B. Mayer or Darryl Zanuck.

However, there is more consternation about where the sale of the *Chicago Sun-Times* have announced that they will resign today when Mr Murdoch takes over, though no reason was officially given. A Pulitzer prize winning columnist, Mike Royko is also considering his position (Christopher Thomas writes from Washington).

## Soviet education tries to rot the rot

From Richard Owen

The attempt to overhaul the Soviet educational system is being seen as part of President Andropov's effort to ensure that reforms he outlined last year are implemented despite his illness. It is not so long since television was extolling the virtues of Soviet secondary education at the start of the school year, with pictures of children listening attentively to competent and caring teachers.

Immense resources are devoted to children in the Soviet Union - the only privileged class, as officials like to put it - and in their strangely old-fashioned black-and-white uniforms. Russian schoolchildren seem on the surface to be well-behaved, model future Soviet citizens.

The official revelation that all is not well in the nation's classrooms came from Mr Andropov himself at the Central Committee plenum last June, when he deplored inadequate teaching of science, arts and ideology in the Soviet Union's 142,000 secondary schools and called for fundamental reform.

In November, *Pravda*, taking up the cue, said schools were

producing politically young people who practical skills for the real world outside the classroom. The newspaper highlighted educational rural areas. "It is important to be concerned by civic responsibility, political naivety and towards work and social characters some youth."

How to combine the three Rs with Marxist-Leninist indoctrination and specialized teaching at secondary level is a problem for Soviet rulers since the 1930s.

The latest reform comes into force this part of the Andropov campaign, provides increased practical experience to factories. But it is worried by the Russia's sprawling areas, where no such available and where riding desire of both and pupils is to migrate to exciting urban areas.

As the press discloses, there is practice of the wrong sort

yside, where thousands of children are drafted to help with the fields to help with the. According to *Pravda*, in the area of central Asia, children spent only four hours of the year in class and most of the time planting and weeding cotton.

Another feature of the Andropov reform is that from 1986 men will start school at the six and not seven, giving an extra year for work experience and ideological training.

Teachers, whose poor quality is deplored by Mr Andropov, will train for five years for four and men are to be trained to enter an over-whelmingly female-dominated traditionally underpaid profession.

Foreign-language teaching is stepped up in the non-republics, where children tend to be taught in native tongue and have only a poor knowledge of the language spoken in distant Moscow. Books are to be revised and teachers will be asked to page their children to use at home, instead of watching television.

## Britain resumes aid to Grenada

St George's (Reuters) - Britain is resuming aid to Grenada, cut off nearly five years ago after the former Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, seized power in a coup. Lady Young, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said at the weekend.

"We hope to resume development aid to follow an initial grant of £750,000, which will be shaped in the light of

(Grenada's) longer-term needs," she said. Lady Young is General, and members of the interim government are entering the island.

The Commonwealth has offered to help Grenada. Sonny Ramphal, the Secretary of State, said at the weekend that the aid will be three-day visit.

DAKAR: Lady Young

where yesterday for two of talks with President Diouf and members of the legal Government (Susan Gould writes).

with Britain were intended by the Senegalese to allow British forces to the Falkland Islands.

Lady Young will be tonight.

## Russians taunt Reagan on missiles

From Our Own Correspondent

Moscow

*Pravda* yesterday warned President Reagan that he was becoming the first American President to draw the Soviet armed forces "to the borders of the United States". The newspaper said that, after deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe, the Soviet Union had not only withdrawn from the Geneva arms talks, but had also taken "measures in response".

This was taken by diplomats to refer to President Andropov's warning in November that Moscow would threaten American territory "from the oceans and the seas". *Pravda* did not elaborate yesterday on its remarks and did not indicate whether submarine-launched missiles had already been stationed near American waters.

"Some Americans are beginning to fear that they will not be able to cope now that the genie is out of the bottle. They fear that Washington's attempt to substitute institutionalized terrorism for international law will backfire against the United States and the West in general".

*Pravda* said divisions between Washington and Western Europe over arms control were not instigated by Moscow, but reflected European mistrust of America. The United States had suffered a "moral and political defeat" in Europe because of its policies in Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. *Pravda* reiterated that Russia had no intention of returning to the Geneva talks in the near future.

The breakdown of the Geneva talks and Soviet counter-measures against the West are to be discussed at the Stockholm security conference, which opens next week.

Yesterday *Pravda* gave prominence to a speech by Mr Gregory Romanov in West Germany, in which he accused Washington of hypocrisy over arms control. Mr Romanov, the Politburo member regarded as Mr Andropov's most likely successor in the event of a crisis, said in an address to the German Communist Party at Nuremberg that Russia would expend "huge efforts and vast resources" to preserve the nuclear balance.

● Pilot rules outlined: A senior fighter pilot has published a rare summary of rules for military pilots dealing with aircraft intruding in Soviet airspace, emphasizing that individual pilots may be forced to act on their own (AP reports).

The article by Colonel-General Sergei Golyev made only one mention of the September 1 incident in which a Korean airliner was shot down by a Soviet fighter.

## Turks claim their place in Europe

From Rasit Gurdilek

Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, threatened to sever all links with the Council of Europe if the 21-nation organization refused to allow representatives of Turkey's new civilian legislature into the council's Parliamentary Assembly.

The assembly is to convene at the end of the month, while its judicial commission is to meet today to consider, among other things whether Turkey can claim back its 12 seats, which have remained vacant since the military coup in September, 1980.

The Council has reservations about Ankara's readmission, since only three parties out of 15 are represented in the Turkish Parliament. The rest were banned, or barred from last November's general election.

However, in what appeared to be a conciliatory gesture, Mr Ozal pushed through a Bill last week which dispelled fears that the disqualified parties would be excluded also from local elections, the date of which was advanced to March 25.

On Saturday, at his first press conference since taking office last month, Mr Ozal said the poll had been democratic and hoped "the Council of Europe would not become a hostage of its past mistakes, would abandon its prejudicial and unjust attitudes and would now do its share for the normalization of its relations with Turkey".

"However, if the Parliamentary Assembly's attitude prior to the November 6 elections continues and, as a result, we cannot be represented at the parliamentary wing of the council, then, as we have already stated, we shall not continue to be present at the governmental wing, namely the Committee of Ministers. Inevitably, we would sever totally our relations with the Council of Europe."

Mr Ozal devoted a large part of the press conference to defending the sweeping reforms he has carried out in the hope of creating a healthy, market-oriented economy.

Mr Ozal said, on foreign relations, that ties with the Western community and close relations with the Arab-Islamic world were considered complementary.

## Cambodians celebrate amid tight security

From David Watts, Singapore

Parading elephants and artillery marked the fifth anniversary of the Heng Samrin Government in Phnom Penh at the weekend. Thousands of Cambodians lined the street fronting the old royal palace, now called Lenin Street.

The anniversary was marked by tightened security and a spruced-up city to welcome foreign visitors, who included President Truong Chinh of Vietnam and his Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach.

President Heng Samrin told a rally he would welcome any initiative which would break the impasse between his country and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), whose foreign ministers were meeting in Jakarta at the weekend.

At a press conference, the Foreign Minister, Mr Hun Sen, rejected the suggestion that some of the Asean nations should form a peacekeeping force in Cambodia with Vietnam after the withdrawal of

Hanoi's troops. Mr Sen said it would cause a new civil war because each backed opposing sides in the conflict.

● AMPLIF: Ten thousand supporters of Mr Son Sann, the non-communist Prime Minister in the anti-Vietnamese coalition, held a rally in this Cambodian town near the Thai border to counter events in the capital (Neil Kelly writes).

Mr Son Sann condemned the Phnom-Penh events as "nothing more than a celebration of Cambodian suffering and misery". He called on Vietnam to "come to the international conference table to settle the Cambodian tragedy peacefully".

Resistance forces were ready for another Vietnamese dry-season offensive, Mr Son Sann said. They had gained more territory and supporters in the past year and were reaching the population inside the country, including Phnom Penh. "I know people inside are waiting for us to liberate them," he said.



Man in the news: Senator Timmerman meeting fellow journalists in Buenos Aires after flying in from New York.

## Exiled Argentine returns to fight for justice

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - On his return from New York to Argentina at the weekend the exiled publisher, Señor Jacobo Timmerman, pledged he would fight alongside human rights groups to bring to justice those responsible for the disappearance of thousands of Argentines under military rule.

He accused a former police chief of Buenos Aires province of torturing him during his 29 months imprisonment without trial in 1977-79, and said he would put himself at the service of the human rights groups "so they can tell me how lunatic criminals... who made genocide into a daily task can be put behind bars".

Señor Timmerman, who was editor and publisher of a *Opinion* of Buenos Aires until his arrest, said he would try to recover his newspaper's assets and would also seek the restoration of his Argentine nationality, which was stripped from him by the military when he was released and expelled from Argentina. He eventually took Israeli citizenship. He said he decided to return to

Argentina after being convinced that President Raúl Alfonsín seriously intended to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations under military rule. Señor Alfonsín took office last month after his Radical Party won elections for Argentina's first civilian government in eight years.

● Officers banned: An Argentine judge banned four more top-ranking military officers, including former President Jorge Videla, from leaving the country because of a possible connection with the disappearance of a man in 1976 (Reuters reports).

Along with General Videla, who led the coup which overthrew the last elected government in 1976, the men banned are Brigadier Orlando Agosti and Admiral Emilio Massera, who were respectively the air force and navy chiefs at the time, and General Albano Harguindeguy, General Videla's Interior Minister.

● Record inflation: Inflation reached a record 433.7 per cent in 1983, according to the National Statistics Institute

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# Face to face in China

After years of sensing the magic of China from the outside, the noted travel writer Jan Morris seized the chance to see it for herself. This is the first of three articles in which she tells of her experiences



Photograph by Nobuy Clark

moreover... Miles Kington

## Kornering a taste for the blues

The late lamented Alexis Korner first came to notice 20 years ago as a champion of the blues, but I already knew his name. In 1956 or so, as a jazz-enthused schoolboy, I had bought an EP of solos by the great boogie pianist Meade Lux Lewis, with sleeve notes by Alexis Korner, in which he said at one point that Lewis had a fine technique despite using the "old piano position of the pre-Bach period, a position in which the thumb is never used". I had no idea who Korner was, but anyone who knew (a) that Lewis was a great pianist and (b) what happened to thumbs pre-1700, had to be a great scholar in my book.

Thumbs or no thumbs, Lewis's kind of piano proved totally addictive for me, and I only have to put on that selfsame record 27 years later to be immediately submerged in those swirling, thumping rhythms, and carried away. I never became quite so infected by the vocal blues that Korner loved; it was the piano blues, of which boogie is only a variety, that got into my bloodstream and left me infected for life. But then there are many different ways of catching the blues. When Elvis Presley crashed on to the scene, I looked down my nose at this rock 'n' roll shouter (nothing so snobbish as a good jazz fan) and left my generation to get on with it. It was only years later that I realized Presley's early music was another branch of the blues - many of those far-off hits like "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Hound Dog" are straight 12-bar blues.

It's still hard to realize how much twentieth-century popular music has been dominated by black American culture: not just by one country, but by a small minority in that country. Black music and derivatives of it have become so much taken for granted that we often forget where they come from, and we talk of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones as British growths, which is a bit like saying that the Californians invented wine. Jazz was the first black music, after ragtime, that hit the public. Later it was rock 'n' roll, a white mans' sweet version of rhythm 'n' blues, and then finally it was the real thing, the real city blues, that began to inspire people in the 1960s.

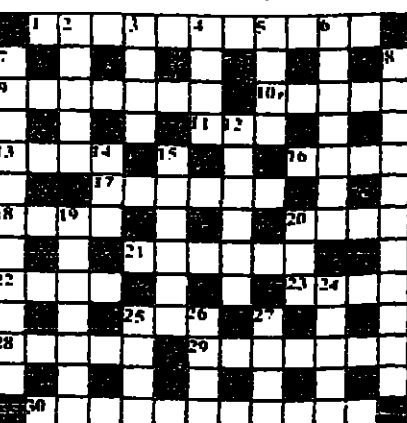
And now even that has begun to run out of steam. Blues artists in the United States attract mainly an older audience in the black community, as if the music belongs to a past that younger people want to forget. Black pop music is mostly derived now from soul music, which in turn goes back to gospel music, the sanctified shouting of the black congregation. It doesn't do a great deal for me, but then there isn't much hope for someone who still puts on old Meade Lux Lewis records.

Oddly enough, the very first black pianist I saw performing alone was not a blues or even a jazz performer. In 1960, as the luckiest teenager in the world, I found myself alone in New York for three months. I worked by day and went to jazz clubs at night. One night I went to a jazz club which was presenting no fewer than three attractions. Bill Harris, a now-forgotten solo guitarist. Ornette Coleman, a naive but compelling revolutionary saxophonist. And, top of the bill, Nina Simone, who sang dramatic songs and played dramatic piano that incorporated gospel, jazz, blues and classical bits and pieces.

I had quite forgotten about this female equivalent of Ray Charles until this Christmas, when my daughter gave me my son's Nina Simone record as a present. She hasn't changed at all. She still sounds stunning, though it's odd to hear the sound of it coming from my son's room. I suppose what it boils down to is that we all discover the blues, or something like it, in our own way; however it happens, it lights up something inside us that is hard to put out.

And now, as if by clockwork, Nina Simone is appearing this week at Ronnie Scott's. I wonder if I ought to risk taking my children. Would they think I was trying to muscle in on their likes? Should I stress that they are muscling in on my 1960 memories? I wonder if Alexis Korner liked her at all? I wonder if she uses her thumbs when she is playing? Why don't I stop asking stupid questions and just get along there? Meanwhile, why don't I put on that Meade Lux Lewis record just one more time?

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 243)



- ACROSS
- 1 Butterfly larva (11)
  - 2 Having weapons (5)
  - 3 All together (2,5)
  - 4 Accused's answer (4)
  - 5 Fortune telling card (3)
  - 6 Generation (3)
  - 7 Purposes (4)
  - 8 Quarrel pint (4)
  - 9 Public address system (6)
  - 10 In fitting manner (4)
  - 11 Unwrap (4)
  - 12 Catch in mistake (4,2)
  - 13 Produced (4)
  - 14 Wave foam (4)
  - 15 Snow glider (3)
  - 16 Non Scotch whisky (3)
  - 17 Knitted vest (7)
  - 18 Require (11)
- DOWN
- 1 Having weapons (5)
  - 2 Different (4)
  - 3 Accused's answer (4)
  - 4 After proper time (4)
  - 5 Bring before court (7)
  - 6 Sleight of hand (11)
  - 7 Corona discharge (2,5,4)
  - 8 Small bands (6)
  - 9 Filthy place (3)
  - 10 Hooded jacket (6)
  - 11 Innovation opponent (7)
  - 12 Life (3)
  - 13 Not abridged (5)
  - 14 Footwear (4)
  - 15 Oxford Thames (4)
  - 16 Inclination (4)
- Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

stood the hills of China, rolling sometimes, sheer sometimes and, once or twice, moulded into the conical dome shapes that I had hitherto supposed to be the invention of Chinese calligraphy.

But I must go far inland, the bureaucrat told me on our third day at sea, to Guangxi in the south, to see such mountains properly - mountains like no others, and he: the Peak of Solitary Beauty, the Hill of the Scholar's Servant... "But look", he interrupted himself, "you notice? The water is turning yellow. We are approaching the mouth of Chang-giang."

So we were. In the small hours that night, when I looked out of my porthole again, I found we were sailing through an endless parade of ships, gloomily illuminated in the darkness. And when, at the crack of dawn, I went on deck to a drizzle morning, still we were passing them up a scummy river thick with ships, barges, tugs, container ships, a warship or two and country craft of shambled wood so fibrous and stringy looking that it seemed to me the Chinese, who eat anything, might well make a dish of them. Hooting all the way, we edged a passage up the Huangpu, narrowly avoiding ferryboats, sending sampans scurrying for safety, until after 30 miles of ships and docks and grim warehouses and factories, we saw before us a waterfront facade of high towers and office buildings, red and shabby in the rain. It was my China landfall; it was the city of Shanghai.

Even the streets of Shanghai, where the poor die no longer, seemed unexpectedly like home. There are virtually no private cars in this city of nearly 11 million people, but I scarcely noticed their absence, so vigorous was the jostling and footing of the taxis, the articulated buses and the myriad bicycles: if there were few bright clothes to be seen along the boulevards, only open-neck shirts and workaday slacks, there were still fewer of the baggy trousers, blue jerkins and caps that I had foreseen.

The theme music from *Bonanza* sounded through Department Store Number Ten: there were cream cakes at Xilailin, formerly Riesling's Tea Rooms; the Xinya Restaurant still ushered foreigners, as it had for a

hundred years, into the discreet, curtained cubicles of its second floor. On my first morning in Shanghai, I ate ice cream in the People's Park (admission two fen, about two cents). With its shady trees and winding paths, the old men playing checkers at its concrete tables, the students at their callisthenics, the miscellaneous meditations and the tall buildings looking through the leaves above, I thought it, but for an absence of muggers and barouches, remarkably like New York's Central Park.

Mrs Wang had invited me to lunch at her apartment, and this was no culture shock either. True, we ate eggs in aspic, a kind of pickled small turnip, and strips of a glutinous substance that suggested to me jellified seaweed, but nevertheless, hers was a home that would not seem unduly exotic in, say, Cleveland. It was the bourgeois home par excellence. It had an upright piano, with music open on the stand, a 16 inch colour TV on the sideboard, a picture of two kittens playing with a ball of wool and a bookshelf of paperbacks. It had a daughter who had come over to help cook lunch and a husband away at the office who sent his regards. "We are very lucky," said the kindly Mrs Wang. "We have a certain social status."

So this was China? I had to pinch myself. The dictatorship of the people (principle of government number two, I remembered) does not visibly discipline Shanghai. Occasionally, bespectacled soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Army trundle through town on ratty motorbikes with sidecars, and outside the Municipal Headquarters (né the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank), two fairly weedy-looking troopers stand on sheepish sentry.

Otherwise, authority is inconspicuous. The traffic flows in cheerful dishevelment over the intersections, ineffectually chivied along over loud-speakers by policemen smoking cigarettes in their little white kiosks. Jay walkers proliferate, and in the crinkled backstreets of the old quarter, there seems no ideological restraint upon the free-enterprise peddlers and stall-holders, with their buckets of peaches, plastic bags of orange juice and compounds of duck.

Nobody seemed shy of me. Every-one wanted to talk. A factory worker I met in the park took me, without a second thought, to his nearby apartment (two dark rooms occupied almost entirely by cooking utensils and bicycles). The only hazard of the Shanghai street, I discovered, was the student who wished to practice his English.

Well! So this was the policy of the Open Door, which is bringing modernity to China and has made foreigners and all their ways respectable. It seemed remarkably liberating. I often talked politics with people I met, and their answers sounded uninhibited enough. The Cultural Revolution, that hideous upheaval of the Sixties? A terrible mistake, a tragedy. The future of China? Nobody knows for sure what kind of country this is going to be. Communism versus capitalism? There is good and bad in both. Would they like to go to America? Of course, but they would probably come home again. What a kind face Zhou En-lai had! Yes, he had a lovely face, he was a good, kind man, the father of his people. Did they like the face of Mao Zedong?

Ah, but there was a hush when I asked this question. They thought for a moment. Then, "We don't know" was the mumbled answer, and suddenly, I realized that they had not been frank with me at all. Not a reply had they given but that was sanctioned by the political orthodoxy of the moment. Did they like the face of Chairman Mao? He was a great man, they knew, he had fallen into error in his later years, it had been admitted, but nobody, it seems, had ever told them whether to like his face.

My perceptions shifted there and then, and where I had fancied

frankness, now I began to sense evasions, veils or obliquities everywhere. This was, I reminded myself, the very birthplace and hotbed of the Gang of Four, that clique of xenophobic zealots - it was from an agreeable, half-timbered villa near the zoo, Frenchified in a bowered garden, that their murderous frenzies were first let loose. A decade ago, I might have had a very different greeting in Shanghai, and Mrs Wang would probably have been banished to one of the remotest onion-growing communes for giving me lunch.

No, perhaps it was not so homelike, after all. On the Bund one evening, a man with the droopy shadow of a moustache pushed his way through the crowd and confronted me with a kind of dossier. Would I go through this examination paper for him and correct his mistakes? But I had done my grammatical duty, I considered, for that afternoon, and I wanted to go and look at the silks in Department Store Number Ten. "No", I said, "I won't."

At that, a theatrical scowl crossed the student's face, screwing up his eyes and turning down the corners of his mouth. He looked, with the suggestion of whiskers round his chin, like a Chinese villain in a bad old movie. I circumvented him, nevertheless, and I thought, in my newfound understanding, that if the Gang of Four were still around, he would have me up against a wall by now, with a placard around my neck and a mob there to jeer me, not to consult me about particles!

As it was, I hasten to add, every single soul in Shanghai was kind to me. As a matter of fact, my conscience pricked me, and I went back and corrected his damned papers after all.

One night, I went to see the acrobats, as every Shanghai visitor must, and realized with a jerk - I choose the word deliberately - what a sense of role means in China. There must have been professional acrobats in this country for more than 2,000 years, and in Shanghai, they have an air-conditioned circular theatre elaborately equipped with trapdoors, pulleys and chromium trapezes for their daily performances of the all-but incredible. The were astonishing, of course. The leapt and bounced around like chinks of rubber, they hurled plates across the stage faster than the eye could see, they balanced vast pyramids of crockery of tops of poles while standing on one foot upon one another's heads.

"It is interesting to think", said my companion, "that in old China, acrobats were like gypsies, of very low status. Now they are honoured performers. They have their role in society". They were slotted, in short, and as I watched them, it seemed to me that they not only had acrobats' limbs, muscles and eyes, but acrobats' thought, too, and acrobats' emotions - specifically, acrobatic libidos - and I fancied that if you stripped away their masks of acrobat makeup, there would only be other masks below, left behind from previous performances.

And it dawned on me that all those homely, shuffling Shanghai crowds could be slotted, too, if you has the key, into their inescapable roles. They were not really, at I had thought at first, at all like crowds on New York's Third Avenue of London's Oxford Street. Every single citizen out there had his allotted, immutable place in the order of things: not a layabout loitered on the sidewalks, not an actor rested, not a busker, hardly a worker out of a job.

I went to the Yu Garden for a sense of duty - it is a National



Jan Morris, formerly on the staff of both *The Times* and *The Guardian*, has written extensively about her travels. This record of her first visit to China will be published in a book of travel writing by Oxford University Press later this year.

Protected Treasure, even though it was built in pure self-indulgence by an official of the Ming dynasty, who caused its Rockery Hill to be constructed out of boulders brought from thousands of miles away and stuck together with rice glue. I was ensnared there, however, by the children. There must have been a hundred of them outside the Hall for the Viewing of Rockery Hill, all three or four years old, some of them tied together with string to prevent them from straying off into the Hall for Watching Swimming Fish, and I wasted a good half-hour playing with them. What adorable, merry faces! What speed of mood and response, mock terror, sham apprehension, sheer hilarity! I stayed with them until they were led off two by two, a long crocodile of black-haired, roly-poly imps, towards the Hall of Jade Magnificence.

There is nowhere like Shanghai for infant watching, but in the end, among all the increasingly puzzling and deceptive inhabitants of this city, it was the children who baffled me most. They have a particular fondness for foreigners, and will pick one out from miles away, across a crowded square, clean through the Tower of Lasting Clearness, to wiggle an introductory finger. They have no apparent voices. They never cry, they don't know how to suck a thumb, and though their trousers are conveniently supplied with open slits in their seats, I am sure they never dirty themselves anyway.

How I wished I could get inside their little heads and experience the sensations of a People's Revolutionary childhood! Do they never fret, these infants of the Middle Kingdom? Is that sweet equanimity of theirs forced or innate, ethnic or indoctrinated? Could it really be that this society is bringing into being a race that needs no diapers? The children in the Yu Garden waved and made funny faces at me as they stomped away, but they left me uneasy.

So, the next day, I went to one of the notorious Children's Palaces, after-school centres where children can either have fun or be coached in particular aptitudes. I say notorious, because for years these places have been shown off to visiting foreigners, so that they long ago acquired the taint of propaganda. Certainly through my particular palace a constant succession of tourist groups was passing, led by the hand by selected infants in somewhat sickly intimacy.

But what disturbed me more was the utter obliviousness of the children to the peering, staring, bulb-flashing tourists led among them, room by room, by those minuscule trustees (who have an unnerving habit, by the way, of calling their charges "Auntie"). With an uncanny disregard, they continued their ping-pong or their video games, repeated once again that last crescendo of the "Harvest Song of the Yugur Minority" or sat glued to the pages of cartoon-strip books turning their pages with what seemed to me an unnatural rapidity. Their eyes never once flickered in our direction.

Were they really reading at all? Were they even playing in our sense of the verb? Search me! I can only report one odd little episode, which sent me away from the Children's Palace peculiarly uncomfortable and came to colour my whole memory of Shanghai. Early in a performance of "Jingle Bells" by an orchestra of children under the age of five, the virtuoso lead xylophonist happened to get herself a full tone out of key. She never appeared to notice, nor did any of the other performers, all dimples, winsome smiles and bobbing heads up there on the stage. On they went in fearful discord, tinkle-tinkle, clang-clang, simpering smugly to the end.

Jan Morris, 1983

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FIRST PERSON

Nearly sunk by the U100

by Nancy Waller

I am an insulin-dependent diabetic. I am also 60 years old, a widow, and I live alone. Last year, I was in the hospital for a month, and I was nearly killed by the U100. I was in the hospital for a month, and I was nearly killed by the U100. I was in the hospital for a month, and I was nearly killed by the U100.

But the burden of my song at present is particular, not general. The public may not be aware that diabetics on insulin are at present being changed over to a new standardized insulin, U100, so called because there are now 100 units of purified insulin to each millilitre of suspension fluid. Mark that word "purified". Previously, insulin was available in various strengths, usually 40 or 80 units per ml. The reasons for the change have been given as ease of measurement of dose, less risk of confusion between marks (the measurements on the old syringes) and "to bring us into line with the US and Europe."

My diabetes was a devil to stabilize. From its onset it disobeyed all the rules. It did not even arrive with a proper set of symptoms. When, weak and exhausted and having had to prop myself up against a wall several times on the way, I at last arrived at my doctor's surgery, he sent me away with a tonic.

I should have been running to the loo every 10 minutes and drinking gallons of any liquid that came to hand, but I did not know that. Instead, I got weaker and weaker, felt more and more ill and lost more and more weight. I swallowed my tonic dutifully and reminded myself that "giving in" were words not in my vocabulary. Nevertheless the day came when I could not get out of bed. I had passed beyond feeling ill and was blissfully sleepy and not at all impressed by having my cheeks slapped by a jolly nurse.

I soon found out how unpopular I was. Not only had I had the temerity to have juvenile-onset diabetes at the advanced age of 47, I had never been fat, had never had a sweet tooth, and had not had 10 overweight babies. "Are you sure?" they asked me doubtfully, thinking I might have mislaid a few. I was sure - only two and only six apiece at birth, moreover. And no diabetes in the family.

Eventually after much weeping and wailing I arrived at consultant level. It took the Great Man five minutes flat to diagnose my hypersensitivity to insulin. He actually listened to me and believed what I said. Within a short time he had stabilized me on two types of insulin, 40 strength, two injections each day, and on this happy regime I continued for 10 trouble-free years. I lost no time from work.

Then the Great Man retired. Then came U100. Then came trouble. Do not misunderstand, I like and respect my new consultant. Rotating registrars grovel to him suitably. Came the day of my change-over and he was enthusiastic about the new insulin, derogatory about the old ("dirty" insulin, he called it), and reassuring to a degree.

But the doses he decreed set the alarm bells jangling in my mind: surely they were far too high? I restricted myself to a faint misgiving, hard experience having taught me to temper my reactions for fear of being labelled neurotic, hysterical or, at best non-cooperative.

I had been dismissed with an airy "see you in six months", but I knew I was headed for trouble. It was not long in coming. There was a certain grim satisfaction in recording the lower and lower blood sugar levels over the next 24 hours, a pleasurable anticipation of being able to say "I told you so", but these sensations soon palled. Fellow-diabetics will be familiar with the horrors of a full-blown hypoglycaemic attack unrelieved by the usual warning signs. Others should be spared, but picture a gibbering, sweating, helpless idiot knowing herself on the edge of consciousness, unable to persuade her brain to think or her limbs to move. There are potatoes boiling on the stove and the neighbours are away on holiday. It is only Changeover-Day-plus-One and I have already taken the law into my own hands and reduced the recommended doses. I continued to reduce them during days 2-5 days and supplemented my diet with Mars bars, but the hypos kept coming.

I wrote to my new consultant. He telephoned me as soon as he received my letter. "You see," he said (not apologetically), "it's purified insulin. That means it's stronger."

Exactly. I am now becoming a little more stable on approximately half his original recommended doses. I suspect that not enough attention is being paid to the fine tuning of individual patients during the change-over to U100, and I would like to see an inquiry into this, and a follow-up study of patients before, during and after.

The point I really want to make is this: if I were the sort of patient who unquestioningly says "no", I might well be dead by now. Does anybody out there care?



Public schools, like West End clubs and Oxford and Cambridge colleges, used to be restricted to gentlemen. Then, in 1969, along came Mr Dancy of Marlborough, who horrified many old boys, headmasters and prospective pupils' parents by admitting girls. Only 20, mind you, and solely in the sixth form, but enough to create visions of St Trinian's-type disorder.

Many educationists treated this much-publicized initiative as just another trendy American experiment that would never catch on here. How wrong they were.

Today almost all the big public schools take in girls. Indeed, headmasters keep complaining that their brightest pupils are being poached to satisfy the Oxbridge entrance ambitions of their male rivals.

But how have these fair newcomers adjusted to this quirky Tom Brown's Schoolboys tradition? Do they subconsciously assume characteristics of their school stereotype, whether arrogant, plodding, over-intellectual or pious? More seriously, do they achieve higher academic distinction?

The idea of meeting a female Old

Wykehamist intrigued me. Perhaps she would combine the What hoi dynamism of a Peter Jay with the analytical skills of Sir Geoffrey Howe and the erudite charm of Lord Macaroff.

It was not to be. "This is a boys' school", said the headmaster John Thorn. "and we have no plans to change that". Indeed, Winchester, like Harrow, Ampleforth and Radley, remains firmly of the misogynist persuasion.

I received a warmer response from Dr John Rae of Westminster, an early exponent of coeducation whose school takes 65 new girls a year (and who is the father of three Old Elizabethan daughters).

He finds that girls seldom disappoint academically. About one third of his sixth-formers win Oxbridge places and nearly 90 per cent attain some form of higher education. Intriguingly, the male results are almost identical.

A school like Westminster, Dr Rae adds, is better-equipped to prepare a pupil for Oxbridge than most girls' schools because "we know our way around and have the expertise".

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# Bring on the Lancing

## TAKING A BOW

Hon Pauline Astor, Old Gregorian, 19

The monks weren't quite sure how to cope with us. There were only seven girls in the first year and eight in the second. Some behaved fantastically, took us out for drinks and were quite flirty. Others were rather old uncle-ish. But I found they were all very ready to recognize us as adults.

We fell between being a second-class citizen and a celebrity. To begin with the boys used to straighten their ties and curb their language when we entered a room. But, after six months, it was "Pauline, I'm going to a party tonight, please can you tie my bow tie".

The monks invented the Six-Inch Rule. No boy was supposed to get any closer to us than that. It was absurd and seldom enforced. But they were paranoid about us getting pregnant.

They always seemed to sense if a boy and girl got it together. One monk acted as a kind of marriage guidance counsellor when things went wrong.

Downside stopped taking girls after I left. A new headmaster arrived who didn't approve.

## NO TEARS

Kate Wykes, Old Marlborough, 20.

I expected it to be very stuffy and to hate it. I'd give Marlborough a try, I thought, and then return to my state school near Cambridge and join my old school friends.

The teaching methods were very different. The classes were far more competitive than I was used to. At comprehensive everyone was supposed to be on the same academic level and our exam results weren't even published.

As there were only 80 of us among 800 we were still a very close-knit body. The girls were your best friends and you couldn't afford a rift. You can't cry so easily on a boy's shoulder, can you?

I benefited most from sport - hockey, squash, swimming - pushed more. I also enjoyed the drama. I appeared in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* and in the school revue.

I'm not sure if I'd send a daughter of mine there. I saw girls getting terribly teased. Boys can be excessively cruel to each other and they were very rude about some of the girls. The older ones who wanted to be friendly to us were accused of being silly. Still, I made a lot of good friends.

## In defence of the Englishman

I don't often find myself acting as counsel for the defence of that not much maligned creature, the Englishman. I take on this very temporary role now only because he's had such a rough going-over by Kati Marton, the American writer and former television executive.

Readers of *The Sunday Times* may remember that during a temporary stint in London last year Miss Marton wrote an article which criticized Englishmen for ignoring her at dinner parties. She also criticized Englishmen who didn't ignore her at dinner parties for never once did these fiends ask her what she did, even though she was obviously bursting to tell them.

Back home in New York, Miss Marton is still on the attack. In an article for *The New York Times* called "American Women's Good Luck", she writes of her delight in "Life for a woman in Britain can be an energy-sapping experience" due mainly to the dismissive attitudes of English men. I cannot deny that British men are not interested in women's careers. They are not interested in anyone's career, including their own. Even Kati Marton admits the fact that, in London, Trollope and Beerbohm are equally



## Penny Perick

prized as subjects for dinner table repartee.

So are golf handicaps, skiing holidays and the nasty pain you get all the way down your left leg whenever you cat jugged here - just about anything, in fact, except what you do for a living and how much you're paid to do it. Ignorant of this conversational taboo, Miss Marton writes bitterly of one London dining companion: "During our shared life as dinner partners, he never formulated a single question about my occupation. To him I was somebody's wife, somebody else's mother - twin roles that cannot leave enough time for a person to be anything but uninteresting."

In this country, men don't assume that a woman leads a dull life because she's a wife and mother, no more than they mark her down as a fascinating bit of stuff if she runs her own merchant bank. At the British dinner table all are equal. All things being equal, half the male guests would probably rather be in the comfort of their own homes watching television anyway so, if you happen to be the hostess, it is no good thinking you're doing them a big favour by sitting them next to Selma Scott's Princess Michael of Kent or even next to the mother of sexperts.

It made Miss Marton extremely cross that no Englishman ever asked her what her current project was, but this was because she happened to have both a current project and future plans. For those of us inclined to drift aimlessly while hoping for the best, an Englishman's reluctance

to question us on our career is one of his most alluring qualities.

The heart of the matter is that Englishmen leave well alone while Americans insist on sharing deeply meaningful experiences and do not know the meaning of the expression live and let live. No good telling an American that you "write a bit" and hoping that he will then turn to something really interesting such as Mrs Johnny Carson's latest alimony request. He will insist on knowing what you think about word-processors, Salman Rushdie and the use of the semicolon. Pace Kati Marton but that is my idea of an "energy-sapping experience".

Miss Marton claims that all the American women she knows feel lucky to live in such productive circumstances. I hope they do but I have several American female friends who are chronically mokey. All of them are building careers but have not given up hope of combining work and marriage. "The problem is," one of them told me recently, "that if I'm going to get to the top at work, I can't go out with men - it takes up too much time."

It's American "men's" talking about, those strange fellows who take a positive, helpful and interested attitude towards what women do all day. Only, since they need to spend so much time with you in order to demonstrate their concern, they don't leave you a minute which you can wholeheartedly devote to your job. When your every move is met with a blast of inquiries, it's bound to lead to introspection rather than action.

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## TALKBACK

### Nina: lovable not lonely









P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## ANGOLA BATTLEGROUND

South Africa seems to be raising the stakes in Angola. If its own accounts are correct its latest incursion was the largest since the invasion of November, 1981. It led to a major battle in which 324 opponents were killed, including Cubans, Angolan regular forces and members of the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo). Tanks and weapons were also destroyed and prisoners taken. Some of the Soviet advisers in Angola are said to have been directly involved in controlling the fighting. The United Nations Security Council has censured South Africa, with Britain and the United States abstaining.

The South African Government claims primarily military reasons. It says that Cuvelai, where the fighting took place, is an important logistical base for Swapo. Just before Christmas it announced a "limited campaign" in Southern Angola aimed at stopping Swapo guerrillas from mounting their annual rainy season offensive across the border into Namibia. According to a military spokesman last week's battle was successful in dispersing Swapo, disrupting their preparations and turning back the spearhead of their advance. At the same time, however, the official statement claims that the incident occurred only because Swapo, Cuban and Angolan soldiers attacked a "relatively small" South African force last Tuesday.

Doubtless the military explanations are genuine up to a point. Swapo is active across the border in Namibia and was probably planning new actions, as it does at this time of year. But the primary reason for what looks like escalation on South Africa's

part must be political and diplomatic. As Mr. P. Botha, the Foreign Minister, put it, "The Security Council resolution virtually condoned violence. The South African Government rejects that decision and reaffirms its standpoint that it will continue to act against any terrorist organization which is bent on determining the future of South West Africa/Namibia with violent means. . . . The time has come for the world to know that South Africa will not allow itself to be intimidated."

Nobody thought that South Africa was going to be intimidated, but many wonder if the South African Government really wants a settlement of the Namibia issue at the moment. It still, understandably, fears a hostile black government in Windhoek, which is what it would get. It does not want further alienation of its own white supporters after the constitutional referendum on constitutional reform last year. And it believes that it has little to fear from the United States, where the policy of constructive engagement with South Africa has meant abandoning direct pressure.

Some military men in South Africa also have hopes of tilting the balance of power in Angola with further help to the Unita forces under Mr. Savimbi, who already controls substantial areas. If Mr. Savimbi could be helped to march into Luanda the problem would seem nicely solved. But the danger is that before this happened the Russians and Cubans would put in more troops. Already the Russians have been sending warning signals to the South African Government pledging

full support for the Government of Angola. In spite of the invisibility of Mr. Andropov they are probably not in a mood to give up Angola without much better reason than they have now.

For the moment the main debate centres on the rival proposals for a disengagement. The South Africans proposed a truce starting on January 31 but demanded as a condition the removal of Cuban troops and the end of Swapo incursions into Namibia. Angola countered by demanding that South Africa pledge without preconditions to begin implementing by mid-March the United Nations plan for Namibian independence. South Africa then said that it would begin implementation "upon resolution of the problem of Cuban forces in Angola."

There does not seem to be much of a bridge between these positions. Perhaps now that South Africa has improved its military position and demonstrated its determination to take further military action if necessary, even deep into Angola, it could make some concession, such as attaching no clear timetable to the withdrawal of Cuban troops. However, it will not get much change out of the Angolan Government unless it gives convincing evidence of a desire to move out of Namibia, and it is difficult to see any compelling reason why it should feel obliged to do this, especially if it has the military situation under control. For the moment, therefore, the prospect is for more haggling, more fighting, and little if any political progress.

## ROME AND THE REST

Not very long ago the Roman Catholic Church in Britain sat in one lonely corner and all the rest - Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists - in another, with little traffic between them. That at least was an improvement on the previous open religious hostility. Even more remarkable is the contrast with today, when those other churches, through the person of the British Council of Churches, are actively wooing the Roman Catholics into membership of that body. It is manifestly upset to be only the British Council of (some of the) Churches, with a large part of Christian activity in Britain, the Roman part, carrying on as if it did not exist.

The Roman Catholic Church is unsure how to react to these pressing overtures, wavering between "on the one hand" and "on the other", and the least they could do - are doing this week - is to have a meeting about it. Leaders of the other churches, including the Archbishop of Canterbury will join the bishops of the Roman communion in England and Wales for a residential conference at Chelmsford.

It is a sign of the Roman Catholic predicament that even the terms of this discussion have been left unclear. For most if not all the non-Roman distinguished visitors, the job in hand will be to complete the wooing, and even persuade the bishops to name a date. Some will take no persuading. But an influential group, led by the president of the bishops' conference, Cardinal Hume, have such serious misgiv-

ings that the discussions are not officially about the British Council of Churches at all. They are about "the nature of the church," a phrase which, when Roman Catholic theologians use it, implies deep water indeed.

The case for Roman Catholic membership is essentially about pragmatism, convenience, and ecumenical sentiment, while the case against is a fundamental challenge to the very concept of a council of churches. Is there really such an entity, known to man of God, or is it a fiction, empty of ecclesiastical substance? To make matters worse, and for the Roman Catholic bishops more delicate, a great many ecumenical eggs are now sitting in that basket. The council has transferred to it all the expectations previously directed at the abortive "covenant for unity" scheme which the Church of England threw out in 1982.

The British Council of Churches can be, of course, whatever its members want it to be. A central listening post for the transmission of ideas and research is lacking from the British ecclesiastical landscape: often senior churchmen only know of each other's affairs through the press. Such a role would appear to present no problems for the Roman Catholic bishops. But the council of churches also has a general assembly, which debates and passes motions on the great issues of the day. This in turn encourages certain sections of the council's bureaucracy to

make interim but no less sounding statements as they think fit, for later endorsement by the assembly. On the whole, it must be admitted, the churches in membership do not appear to pay very much attention to what is done rather inflatedly in their name. But if Cardinal Hume is asking "What authority has all this utterance?" it is a good question. Particularly as Roman Catholic membership would seem to convey even more weight to it.

Nevertheless the Roman Catholic Church has been put on the spot. Church unity is its official policy, manifestly a sincere one, and the same desire exists in the other churches. Beyond the stage of being nice to each other must come the stage of making demands of each other, spelling out their terms. Yet no mechanism exists, lest it be the British Council of (all the) Churches, for doing any such thing other than bilaterally.

The time has probably come when both sides must free themselves from the gag of ecumenical courtesy, the Roman Catholic Church saying what sort of council of churches it really would like to join, and the other churches saying whether they will pay whatever the price is. If the result is a much more theologically oriented, and much less politically oriented, body, headed more by a management committee than a general assembly, few would complain. In exchange the churches would acquire a useful, if less publicly visible, common instrument of their search for unity.

## STRAINS ON THE MEXICAN SYSTEM

The Mexican political system used to be over-praised. Before the Plaza de las Tres Culturas massacre of 1968, Mexico was held up as an example to other Latin American nations, a country that had evolved an enduring system of one party government, kept a stable currency, and at least delivered some of the goods to some of the people some of the time. The image was damaged in 1968, but criticism was stilled by massive oil discoveries. Then came gross mismanagement of the boom and the foreign debt crisis at the end of 1982. Last year saw what can be construed as the beginnings of an orthodox recovery on the economic front, but also signs of prolonged political crisis. Is the present fashion of questioning the system's capacity to survive justified, or has excessive respect simply given way to excessive scepticism?

The particularly hermetic and personalist nature of Mexican politics does not make for an easy judgment. The most visible challenges to the PRI, the ruling party of the last twenty-five years, come from the conservative and middle class to de Accion Nacional in the more advanced

northern and central parts, and from various left-wing groups, the most prominent being the Coalition of Workers, Peasants and Students (COEC) in the poorer south.

The PRI has responded to their recent successes by reverting to tactics of violence and sword that President de la Madrid had earlier disavowed rather than by attempting to improve its own attraction. The opposition, it seems, can be given a certain licence to oppose, but only a very limited licence to win.

Increasing political competition from right and left coincides with uncertainty about organized labour in a time of state-imposed austerity. Government and unions in Mexico have always needed each other, and difficulties with the unions do not occupy the highest place on the present list of worries. All the same the age of the union leadership - Fidel Velazquez, the leader of the Confederation of Mexican Labour is 83, and the head of a rival confederation is 89 - contributes to the uncertainty.

Corruption in recent years reached heights previously un-

dreamt of. The world emphatically does not owe certain Mexicans a living on the scale to which they were becoming accustomed, and a more than cosmetic clean-up is a political as well as a financial necessity. Excessive corruption not only brings criticism and protest; it saps the will and confidence that politicians, in Mexico and elsewhere, require in testing times.

That is some of the dark side. It is still the case that neither the PAN nor the left offer Mexico a plausible alternative government, that the president enjoys a certain personal prestige, and that the PRI has not lost all credibility quite apart from the patronage and other sources of power it has at its disposal. The Mexican government has not solved the prime conundrum of how to open a centralized one party system to the freer play of party and local opposition, but neither does it suppress all dissident voices and make no political effort to deprive them of support. It may be too early to dismiss President de la Madrid, a "technocrat", a product of the system, as a man without distinctive political skills of his own. If he has them, his country certainly needs them.

## Airways interest before profit

From Mr. A. J. Lucking  
Sir, You have reported (January 2) that British Airways anticipates profits after 1110m interest of £200m-250m this year, and up to £350m next year. The capital employed is around £800m, nearly all bank debt.

These profits arise because fares are geared to partner airlines such as Qantas, Swissair and Lufthansa with UK levels. Often, British exporters are not travelling as much as they should because they can afford only fares geared to the cost level of an efficient British carrier.

I believe that the priority task for British Airways is not to make huge profits, but to work with the Government to find some way through the jungle of bilateral agreements so that the nation's exporters can receive every assistance in their vital work of replacing the North Sea oil income.

Imperial Airways was nationalised by a Conservative Government in 1939 because it put profit and a 9 per cent dividend before the provision of air services into Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. LUCKING,  
17 Broad Court,  
Bow Street, WC2.

## Local democracy

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter  
Sir, If one did not know that Councillor Blunkett was a far from naive character one would suspect that his closing passage in his letter which you publish today (January 5), with its reference to a "democratic accountable electoral system", was an example of rather attractive naivety.

Councillor Blunkett must be as well aware as any of us that the national electorate, which is completely comprehensive and includes all adults (except aliens, lunatics, long-term convicts and peers of the realm), voted decisively only a few months ago for a Government which would curb inflation and encourage economic growth.

Does Councillor Blunkett really feel that where a number of local authorities indulge in policies which could endanger such objectives the national Government should ignore its own commitments and placidly watch the frustration of the objectives to which it is committed?

Moreover, the expression "democratic accountable electoral system" ignores the fact that less than half of local authorities' rate income is contributed by local government electors: the larger part is contributed by industry and commerce, which has no local authority vote.

At the same time a majority of the voters do not directly or consciously pay rates. And above all only 22 per cent of total local authority expenditure is contributed by rates paid by individual ratepayers.

It takes an odd sort of mind to see this system as either "democratic" or "accountable".

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
BOYD-CARPENTER,  
House of Lords,  
January 5.

## Royal Family duties

From Mr. T. C. M. O'Donovan  
Sir, I have again carried out a survey of the duties performed by the Royal Family during 1983, as reported in your Court Circular.

	1	2	3	4	5
The Queen	82	60	12	141	9
Duke of Edinburgh	70	59	23	9	21
The Queen Mother	70	59	23	9	21
Prince of Wales	89	43	17	17	3
Princess of Wales	86	21	-	3	3
Prince Andrew	11	3	-	-	-
Prince Edward	11	3	-	-	-
Princess Anne	162	64	8	10	6
Princess Margaret	77	24	6	9	1
Princess Alice	26	7	1	6	-
Duchess of Gloucester	89	37	14	11	5
Duchess of Kent	52	17	6	1	3
Duke of Kent	77	22	18	4	9
Duchess of Kent	25	6	2	2	2
Princess Alexandra	78	24	4	13	2

1. Official visits, opening ceremonies and other appearances.
2. Receptions, lunches, dinners, banquets.
3. Meetings, including Privy Council.
4. Audiences given.
5. Number of countries visited.

In addition, the Queen held 42 investitures and the Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales two each. As in previous years I have not included the weekly audiences given by the Queen to the Prime Minister.

The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales had lengthy overseas tours. The Duchess of Kent was indisposed between April and October.

Yours faithfully,  
T. C. M. O'DONOVAN,  
Marine,  
The Avenue,  
Datchet, Berkshire.

## Backward glance

From Mr. Michael MacLagan  
Sir, My great-grandfather was only born in 1785, but was able to take part (as an Army doctor) in the Walcheren and Peninsular campaigns. However, I am not yet 70.

His daughter-in-law and my grandmother used to visit French cousins in the middle of the last century. I was brought up to believe that on one occasion in Paris she sat next to an old lady who opened conversation with the words: "Comme disait Louis XIV d'un premier mari."

Apparently the speaker had been the youthful ward of an aged Marshal of France who, shortly before the French Revolution, married his ward, seeking to secure for her the considerable pension belonging to the widow of a marshal. He had himself been a page of honour to Louis XIV.

Louis XIV died in 1715; my grandmother often spoke to me.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MACLAGAN,  
College of Arms,  
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

## 'Dual protection'

From Professor Desmond  
Sir, As Irish affairs continue it is clear that the people of the Republic are ready now, as never before, to welcome a radical solution to the Ulster problem. The insular contagion has begun to take itself in the south, to take advantage of its fragile economy and society at this time.

A solution to this situation is one which is awaited New Ireland Forum is unlikely to suggest. This all talk of "dual sovereignty" or "the long finger" say in Dublin. Then let London establish a "dual protection" to maintain democratic island as a whole and to peoples of all traditions in horror which Ulster has known so long.

The interim "protection" is already taking place. British and Irish armies and try to establish a cordon sanitaire to contain the spread of the evil Ulster terror has spawned.

It is probable that such a political-military initiative would be a considerable support to the European community. It also serves to cut off the greatest of arms and other assistance various terrorist groups in Ireland.

At the same time the "protection" could encourage political within Ulster which would free the Protestant and Catholic peoples from their traditional fear of one another. The Northern Irish members could be given new drawing up a "Bill of Rights" for community.

Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Paisley, Mr. Hume could be appointed junior ministers under Mr. Hume with the SDLP leader representing the "Irish dimension" as consulted closely with the D. Government.

Such a democratic process would be possible if the "dual protection" was able to protect the national community from terrorist intimidation and allow its vast majority peace loving members to support this exercise in conciliation.

The alternative scenario is London and Dublin to continue ideas of movement towards the

## Church's allegations in Namibia

From the Bishop of St. Albans and Terry Waite  
Sir, Readers of Sir Trevor Lloyd-Hughes's letter (January 5) would wish to question his objectivity. He is associated with the Namibia Information Service, which acts on behalf of the South African-backed authorities currently administering Namibia. The points he made in his letter will be dealt with in our delegation's report, which will be published at the end of this month.

The Bishop of Namibia invited the Archbishop of Canterbury to send a delegation from the Anglican Communion to pay a pastoral visit to the Church there. We visited parishes, took confirmations, brought encouragement and support to a suffering Christian community. Namibia is 85 per cent Christian and 93 per cent black, and so the "clerics" have a unique access to the ordinary Namibian people, who feel to the point of desperation that their voice is never heard. In our report we shall attempt to recount what we have heard.

In reply to the spurious theology contained in the letter, we could do no better than quote to the Bishop Desmond Tutu, who said "religion is as dead without its political expression as politics is dangerous without the discipline of spiritual principles."

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES STEENEY,  
TERRY WAITE,  
Lambeth Palace, SE1,  
January 6.

## Care for bear

From Mr. Michael Blair  
Sir, Indeed the stationmaster at Corroir is the travellers' friend (report, January 2) and so is his wife. In the summer of 1982 the family Blair travelled overnight from Euston for their holiday at Corroir and only late in the morning, and five miles up the glen, was it discovered that Eric, a favourite teddy bear, had failed to alight.

A message then went by hand of stalker to Mr. Morgan, who has Corroir's only telephone, and who soon learnt that Eric was already sitting opposite the Fort William stationmaster ready to catch the evening train back. And such was the kindness of Mrs. Morgan, who could not think of a barn going bearless to bed, that her motorised trike made a twilight trip.

Boy and bear slept happy. British Rail's finest hour.

Yours faithfully,  
HALLDORA BLAIR,  
Wootton House,  
Brook Street, Warwick.

## Non-nuclear options

From Mr. J. W. Saunders  
Sir, Walter Stein (December 30) is right in one thing: The Times ought

## Ireland

From the New Ireland  
Sir, I promote in one form or another a constant attempt to force a change upon Ulster. This generation, however, is disastrous. They would like the Basques in their self-determination, and in the end, the terrorists would not take advantage of the old animosities of the area have never completely

JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON, MP  
Forest (Conservative)  
January 5  
James Boyer's comment (January 4) of Dr. Fitzgibbon for a united front common terrorist enemy, common travel area, common security area. But the United Kingdom is to "the unity of the woolly and the more for that. It belongs with a double-talk of 'unity by

more than half a century it is evident that there can only be a united Ireland within the island. Irish and English enjoy a virtual citizenship in Dublin. Indeed the unity of sovereign nations in the drawing up a "Bill of Rights" for community.

Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Paisley, Mr. Hume could be appointed junior ministers under Mr. Hume with the SDLP leader representing the "Irish dimension" as consulted closely with the D. Government.

Such a democratic process would be possible if the "dual protection" was able to protect the national community from terrorist intimidation and allow its vast majority peace loving members to support this exercise in conciliation.

The alternative scenario is London and Dublin to continue ideas of movement towards the

## Cracking down on 'peace studies'

From Lady Cox  
Sir, Mr. McCrum's defence (January 6) of the teaching of "peace studies" in schools underestimates two fundamental problems.

First, as he admits, the concept "peace" features in many disciplines. They range from theology and strategic studies to anthropology and psychology. Any attempt to attain a rounded view therefore requires considerable time and maturity; together with a knowledge of subjects which do not feature in most schools curricula.

What is educationally unacceptable is the facile application of the words "peace studies" to a simplistic discussion of selected issues. Moreover, even in "peace studies" courses, which attempt a broad perspective, such as the Atlantic College course commended by Mr. McCrum, there is a conspicuous absence of systematic teaching about the realities of life in the USSR and Eastern Europe.

As Dr. Scruton emphasized (feature, January 3), this is a major omission which further undermines the academic credibility of "peace studies".

I do not wish to imply that there are not some schools where staff are trying to present the complex issues concerned with "peace" in a balanced and impartial way. However, many recognise that it is impossible to do justice to them in the classroom; and many parents prefer their children to receive teaching in established subjects, which already compete for space in crowded timetables.

Secondly, Mr. McCrum plays down the problem which is distressing many parents: the use of "peace studies" for purposes of political indoctrination.

There is considerable evidence that much teaching of "peace studies" is one-sided in its treatment of nuclear issues and is hostile to NATO. The recently publicised case in a Bournemouth school is one such example; many others could be cited. This is not surprising given the activities of organizations such as Teachers for Peace (an offshoot of CND) and Schools Against the Bomb.

Has the time come when we need to consider legislation to ban politically biased teaching in schools?

Yours faithfully,  
LADY COX,  
House of Lords,  
January 6.

## Time to quit?

From Monsieur Philippe Cailloux  
Sir, In your leading article, "We mean what we say" (December 16), the British contribution to the EEC is described as "unfairly high".

"Unfairly"? Which kind of unfair treatment does the UK suffer from? Has the EEC produced special regulations, applicable to the UK only, for the benefit of the other countries? Or does the EEC apply the common rules to UK in a biased way?

If it were the case, why has not the UK reported to the European Court of Justice? I am surprised indeed to see that there is not a single word in your leading article to explain to your readers the reasons for that so-called unfairness.

Now, why is the UK contribution so high? Indeed, the common belief, here on the Continent, is that this is due to the fact that the UK, although it has joined the EEC, goes on importing food from overseas, disregarding that these supplies are available inside the EEC (though at higher prices, I admit). Do you agree with this explanation?

The UK is free, of course, to deem that the rules of the EEC are not suitable to British economic interests. And it is free to act accordingly, that is to leave the EEC. But as long as the UK sticks to the Community it has to comply with the common rules and has no right to protest against an "unfair" treatment that is but "the common fate of all".

Sincerely yours,  
PHILIPPE CAILLOUX,  
12 Rue du Dr Kurzenne,  
78350 Jouy en Josas,  
France,  
December 26.

## Industrial jigsaw

From Dr. C. J. Wrigley  
Sir, Whilst the 30-year rule operates well for Cabinet minutes and papers (other than the allegedly sensitive material), in practice it does not do so for much material stemming from Government departments.

At the Public Record Office one finds that files which cover long-running issues (such as industrial relations in an industry), say for 1949 to 1958, are kept closed until the last year of the sequence of the material. Thus, even now it is hard to study the industrial problems of the Attlee governments (1945 to 1951).

In such instances the public interest and scholarly interest go hand in hand. It is a great pity that material relating to the recent history of Britain's industrial decline should become available in the manner of a jigsaw puzzle.

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. WRIGLEY,  
Department of Economics,  
Loughborough University,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire,  
December 30.

## Slippery slope

From Mr. R. P. C. Plowden  
Sir, I like the pound coin, but shouldn't it be inscribed not *Deus et Titianus*, but *Facilis descensus*? Yours sincerely,  
R. P. C. FLOWDEN,  
22 Prince Edward Mansions, W2,  
January 1.











## Buoyant Asda ready for a wry smile

Foods, electronics and leisure are the main company sectors from which profits figures are expected next week. Associated Dairies, heavily criticized for its un-

a record Christmas. Food processing has benefited from additional throughput and increased efficiency following a big investment programme.

Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer range.

Another well-known company, the image of which has been one of great potential but

library are proving of value in the video boom. EMF has not emerged in the revitalized film industry as a production company but plans to.

£48m is expected with the year to March coming in about £160m compared with 1983's £122m.

The shares, similarly, riding on the back of

£8m is expected with the full year to March coming in at £12.6m compared with 1983's £12.6m.

The shares, similarly, are riding on the back of the expected profits turnaround and 670p were at a record, yielding an unremarkable 3.2c.

Although TV rental is thought to be levelling out the demand for portable colour televisions is expected to compensate somewhat.

Video rentals have continued performing strongly as the rental charges have fallen. Income is expected to have rebounded 900,000 records on by the financial year-end, producing some £385m in revenue.

The improvement in the lease-building sector has proved a great fillip to allied industries, particularly the beleaguered timber companies. Retaining the sector's overall improvement, Magnet & Sonner is expected to announce a further sharp interim profits improvement on Wednesday.

Analysts forecast pre-tax profits of about £18m against 1983's £12m. The full year is expected at about £36m, against £24.6m the year before.

**Wayne Lintott**

## Dollar to take limelight

producer-price indices for November published on Wednesday, while tomorrow's final figures for retail sales in November are likely to confirm the provisional estimates of buoyant business in the shops.

Other indicators this week include November housing starts and completions, released today, the provisional vehicle production figures for December and credit business (tomorrow), November advance energy statistics (Wednesday) and the leading societies' finances in December (Friday).

The improvement in the house-building sector has proved a great fillip to allied industries, particularly the beleaguered timber companies. Reflecting the sector's overall improvement, Magnet & Sonner is expected to announce a further sharp interim profits improvement on Wednesday.

Analysts forecast pre-tax profits of about £18m against last year's £12m. The full year is projected at about £36m, against £24.6m the year before.

**Wayne Lintott**

PLANTATIONS			
36.2m	Barlow Hidge	77	+3
18.7m	Banella Ltd	72	+8
10.2m	Cassfield	68	—
5.1m	Chuan Piao	42	—
1,002,000	Doranzanah	135	—
5.1m	East Asia Low	116	+2
1,075,000	Hongkong	116	—
13.2m	Nielsen Nauru	220	+22
5,267,000	Qinghai & Co	240	+2
12.2m	Majorda	80	—
1,364,000	Moran	100	—
19.2m	Rover Evans Inc	66	+2
MISCELLANEOUS			
1,490,000	Emser Wtr & S	140	—
1,490,000	Midford Docks	42	—
2,410,000	Sesce Inc	45	—
	Sunderland Wer	140	—
UNLISTED SECURITIES			
23.6m	Air Call	418	—
8,831,000	Berkeley Exp	10	-1
14.3m	Cent Ind Yr	163	—
13.9m	Chuan Piao	163	+13
3,002,000	Gen CTV	223	—
9,203,000	Henry Warren	84	—
9,203,000	Merrill Dine	220	—
67.1m	Metall Bulletin	115	—
1,344,000	Norw Focus	200	+40
1,344,000	Microlease	216	+20
10.6m	New Court Nat	37	—
2,175,000	Parsons Abroad	284	—
1,476,000	Partnership	132	+3
17.1m	Securguard	123	—
19.1m	S.W. Resources	71	+4

\* Dividend, a Ex mt, b Forecast, d Price  
 e Interim payment, f Special  
 g Dividend and yield (except 1 price)  
 h Company, i Pre-merger figures, j Forecast  
 k Dividend and yield (except 1 price)  
 l Tax free, z Price adjusted for late 60  
 significant dates.

[illegible]







[illegible]















# La creme de la creme

## WHY NOT START 1984 IN THE SUNSHINE?

A tax free salary, furnished accommodation and a car, together with 6 weeks paid holiday per annum

### READ ON - IF YOU:

- Have the usual secretarial skills
- Are a non smoker
- Are aged between 25 and 35
- Have no domestic tie
- Possess a current UK driving licence

Then the Sultanate of Oman could be your new base. We are a team of Secretaries looking for a new member (our colleague is getting married soon) to run the home of our principle. This is a challenging and rewarding role with the prime responsibility of administering and supervising his Domestic Staff and ensuring the smooth and efficient running of his home. We look forward to receiving various applications addressed to:

Box 1748 H, The Times

## SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR £8,000

MAYBORN PRODUCTS LTD the holding company for an international group of companies is seeking to appoint a Secretary for its young Managing Director.

The successful applicant will be aged 25+, with a lively and outgoing personality and educated to at least A level standard. Excellent shorthand and typing skills and ability to work on own initiative, with enthusiasm and discretion on both administration and private matters are essential. Applications in writing to:

Mrs L. Lawton, Personnel Office  
Mayborn Products Ltd.,  
Worsley Bridge Rd.,  
Lower Sydenham,  
London, SE26 5HD.

## SECRETARIES + LANGUAGES

Several of our clients including a Covent Garden Design Co. and W.1 T.V. Co. need good Secretaries with exp. and languages. Namely fluent French, Spanish German and Arabic. Salaries range from £7,500 to £15,000 + depending on skills.

Tel: 01-730 5148  
(24hrs)



Recruitment Consultants

## CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN of medium sized Mayfair Advertising Group seek Super Secretary

The successful applicant will be over 25 with previous experience at senior level. We require excellent secretarial skills and good educational background. We can offer a good salary, excellent working conditions and the opportunity to advance within a lively, thriving organisation. Please reply in writing to:

MAGGIE HOGAN,  
LONDON INTER-AD LTD,  
18 Berkeley Street,  
London W1

giving details of age, experience and salary sought along with the reasons you feel you would be suitable for the job.



## INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS

3 experienced secretaries to work in their offices in the administration, editorial and production departments respectively. Good education, secretarial skills and suitable work experience are essential.

Please write for application form to:

The Personnel Department  
Independent Television News Ltd.,  
48 Wells St, London W1P 4DE  
Quoting reference 403099

ITT is an equal opportunities employer

## RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

If your New Year resolutions include a careful and thorough re-assessment of your career aims, in terms of job satisfaction, rewards and prospects linked to productivity and achievement together with the desire to work in a challenging and stimulating environment, please call us. We are looking for 2 young, experienced consultants, to join our agency in Covent Garden. We need hard working self-motivated people capable of creating their own client base and servicing it.

Please call in confidence the Managing Director.

01-836 7415

## LEGAL AUDIO SECRETARY

An experienced audio secretary (commercial conveyancing) required by Holborn solicitors.

This is a senior post and therefore an attractive salary and benefits will be offered to applicants aged 25+ with impeccable secretarial skills and the ability to work under pressure.

Please telephone 01-405 4284 for an early appointment

## SECRETARY TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR City Merchant Bank

Who requires a self-motivated 23-30 year old with excellent secretarial skills. Suitable position for person seeking responsibility, involvement and scope for advancement with a new, talented, energetic team.

Good salary and benefits. Brief details to:

Box 1747H The Times

## ARTS INTERNATIONAL

specialises in production and worldwide TV and video distribution of music and arts features and performance programmes, and requires a secretary/assistant to the Legal and Business Affairs Manager. We require excellent secretarial skills (including competence on a w/p), accurate, reliable, friendly and a sense of humour. Good educational background and the ability to work under pressure are an advantage. Salary by negotiation.

Please apply with full CV to Robert Carter, Arts International Ltd, 32 Ecclestone Square SW1V 1PB.

INVESTMENTS to £10,000 W.1 An excellent P.A. is needed for the M.D. of this private investment company. A city banking background would be a distinct advantage as would good spoken French. Speeds 100/80 aged 28 to 40.

W.1 £9,000 A Secretary with legal experience is needed to work for this international company. Age 27-35. Speeds 90/70.

COBBOLD AND DAVIS Recruitment Ltd. 35 Bruton Place, London, W1. 01-493 7789

S.W.1 c.£9,500 + Bonus The dynamic young M.D. of this fast expanding company involved in the world of computers needs a first rate P.A. to help him run the company. Age 28-35. Speeds 90/80.

CHELSEA £8,500 A flexible Secretary is needed to work in this expanding showroom. Speeds 100/80. Age 23-30.



## ACCOUNT GROUP SECRETARIES

Butler Dennis Garland & Partners, a fast-growing advertising agency situated just off the Piazza in Covent Garden, requires two account group secretaries. Both groups handle a wide spectrum of interesting accounts.

The successful applicants must be able to provide a highly competent back-up to the account handling teams. They will have a good telephone manner, be accustomed to client liaison, possess a degree of self-motivation and sound secretarial skills, including shorthand. Advertising experience is essential.

Ring, or write to:

ANNIE BONE  
Butler Dennis Garland & Partners Ltd.  
8 Henrietta Street, London WC2  
01-436 3474  
(No Agencies)

## MARKETING

International City based Office seek an efficient PA to assist their young dynamic Marketing Director involved in all aspects of Office Automation predominantly Word Processing Systems.

Ideally you will have 5 years' secretarial/word processing exp. Whilst shorthand is desirable the emphasis is on the ability to set-up systems and organise the Dept. You will have direct contact with clients consequently a professional attitude is essential. Candidates must be well groomed and articulate as some exhibition attendance will occur. Age 24-35. This interesting but demanding position offers plenty of opportunity for advancement. This is not a 9-5 job Salary £8,500 + 6 monthly merit reviews and life Co. Benefits.

Contact Key Daily on 630 7066

KINGSLAND PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS.

## SECRETARY

Required immediately

for President of Shipping Line, usual secretarial duties, with good shorthand and typing speeds. Pleasant offices in Curzon Street, W1. Hours 9 a.m.-5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Salary negotiable.

Phone SUE EVANS, 409 3482 FOR INTERVIEW.

## SECRETARY - ADMINISTRATOR

Assist in setting up the European National Accounts Department of this International Office Automation Company based Hammersmith, Middlesex. Co-ordinate Worldwide travel itineraries and keep track of 12 senior Account Executives and Technical Networking Consultants.

Ideally you will have at least 5 years' secretarial/word processing exp. good organisational skills and the ability to work under pressure. You will have direct contact with major clients consequently a professional attitude will be needed and a second European language, preferably French. The job is essentially one of shared responsibility and team work and offers plenty of opportunity for advancement. Salary £15,000 + Life Co. Benefits.

Contact Key Daily on 630 7066

KINGSLAND PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS.

## SHORTHANDED? CALL SECRETARIES PLUS FOR PLUS TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

377 8600 - City  
or 439 7001 - West End

## AMERICAN BANK SECRETARY/PA £7,500-£9,000 mortgage

For the marketing/leading Vice-President who is American and the International Bank of Commerce. We wish to recruit two bright, vivacious, energetic, confident, self-motivated, well-groomed, and well-educated secretaries with excellent shorthand and typing skills, knowledge of word processing, communication skills (French and Spanish helpful) and good organizational skills. Both posts are prestigious and offer full involvement.

Please contact:  
DEJA VU,  
(Recruitment Consultants)  
606 4711

## International Investments c£11,000

Do you want a really absorbing, challenging and rewarding job? If you are 25-40, calm, intelligent, numerate and well presented, this exciting job in E.C.2. needs you. It will involve you totally in the hectic schedule and you will be able to put your own ideas into practice. Excellent typing and shorthand skills, and financial knowledge are essential. You must be a team player and have a high level of motivation. Please ring 588 3535

Crone Corkill  
Recruitment Consultants

## ARE YOU A CAREER MINDED?

non-smoking, P.A. Secretary, aged between 25 and 35 who is capable of giving 100% commitment to a job and prepared to:

- Work at any one of my bosses offices in Europe or the Middle East.
- Work closely with his other Secretaries and staff around the world.
- Take on the role of his travelling Secretary when so required and in this role not only perform the duties of his Secretary, but also act as valet.

If you feel confident that you could be considered for this job, please send your C.V. to:

Box 1748 H The Times

## ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF FRENCH CONNECTION

A superb opportunity for anyone interested in fashion to join this rapidly expanding company. The applicant must be prepared to work under pressure and be highly organised working from East London. Do not apply if you are a clock-watcher. Reasonable shorthand and typing required. Written applications to Stephen Marks, 75 Fairfield Road, London, E3 2QR.

## Graduate Appointments

### 1st CLASS SECRETARIES

As our client's needs increase we wish to recruit additional temporary secretaries. Whether you are a "professional" temp or looking for a permanent job we can offer excellent opportunities from Media to Banking.

If you have a minimum of 2 years experience, a flexible attitude and skills of 100/80 contact us immediately.

GINNY LING or KARIN PARNABY  
on 01-629 7262

## Temporary Division

A Division of Graduate Appointments Ltd

## SALES/MARKETING SECRETARY

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SELL BETTER THAN YOUR BOSS BUT ARE NOT BEING GIVEN THE CHANCE? If so this is a great opportunity for a well spoken person 24 - 30 with an outgoing personality. Full secretarial skills and an ability to sell. We are a young, fast growing City based company offering £8,000 + commission and a company car to the right applicant. Non-smoker preferred.

Tel. 236 1745 John Brender (no agencies)

## THE TALENT STORE

Exp. Media sec with fast accurate typing £7,250  
Account Planners sec with advtg exp. £7,250  
Junior sec to work for 3 Acct. Managers £5,500

For these and other secretarial positions in advertising, contact:

JOSIE ELLIS,  
11 Eccleston St. SW1  
01-730 8117 (Agy)

## TRILINGUAL BANKER'S Secretary £7,200++

A leading American Merchant Bank with a large office in the City of London needs a mature (mid 20s) secretary with fluent French and German. If you have at least three years secretarial experience and good English shorthand 100/80 - (foreign shorthand an advantage). You could be the one to pick up a fascinating and satisfying job that offers all the banking benefits of a successful team.

Phone 01-491 7100 Recruitment Consultants

International Secretaries  
A job to find better!

## MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS ADMIN P/A 25-35 c£9,000

A marvellous opportunity here with the International E.C.2. firm acting as Administrator & P.A. to two very dynamic consultants. You'll need a mature, sympathetic, but professional approach, good skills, fast shorthand, excellent typing and an outgoing personality. If you are looking for a job that will really stretch your administrative & organising ability please contact:

SUE VENABLES  
at Fleet Personnel Rec Cons  
404 4933

## COUNTRY LOVER £8,000 +

Senior Partner of Mayfair Estate Agents needs a socially competent P.A./SEC to organise his business and social life. He heads up their agricultural department, so a knowledge and love of the countryside is a must.

Contact: Louise Hildmarsh on 405 6148  
Kingsland Personnel Consultants

## WORD PROCESSOR OPERATOR

25+ years for Legal Company SW1. Will train on Wang WP. Fast typing essential and some legal knowledge preferred. Salary £7,000 p.a. Season ticket bonus and a free medical scheme. 4 weeks leave.

937 6525

## REGISTERED ASSURANCE BROKERS seek competent Shorthand SECRETARY/PA

to assist Director in rapidly developing company in REINSURANCE. Age 25-40 preferred but some experience essential. Generous salary plus attractive benefits.

Ring: Mrs Gawler, 01-480 6351

## RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

Knightbridge Company and run their busy reception area. You should be well groomed with previous secretarial experience. Excellent shorthand and typing skills. Please send your CV to: Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants, 18 Grosvenor Street, London W1. Tel: 01-499 8070.

HOUSE TRAINED SLOANE required by Knightsbridge Company to clean and look after the home of a very wealthy client. Must be a first class housekeeper with previous experience. Please send your CV to: Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants, 18 Grosvenor Street, London W1. Tel: 01-499 8070.

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# Educational

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